



Central

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

Centered by our myriad and shared spiritual journeys toward God, we strengthen each other to practice love in action with hand and heart. We strive to be a nurturing center dedicated to demonstrating God's love to one another, our community and the world.

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church, a community where you belong. Whether you're with us for the first or thousandth time, whether you're in doubt or are devout, no matter who you are, what experience you bring, or what questions you have, you are welcome here. God welcomes us all.

Hearing assistance devices are available from the sound booth.

Bold signifies congregation participation.

*Rising as able

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us arr. Victor Labenske
Mallory Bernstein, piano

Welcome

Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

Gathering Music (Insert, seated)
Jesus Thy Boundless Love to Me

*Call to Worship

Anne Bond

God's love is new every morning, and God's Spirit is alive among us.

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn 401

Here in This Place

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we struggle to understand your ways, to trust your Spirit, or to follow the path you set before us. Forgive us when we hide in fear or pride, or when we cling to what is familiar instead of opening ourselves to new life. By your grace, meet us in the darkness and lead us into your light, that we may live more fully in your love and serve your world with faith.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

The Spirit is at work in our lives, bringing new life and hope even when we cannot see the full path. In Christ, we are forgiven and held in love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Response

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.

*The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

[Please share signs of peace with one another]

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! x3
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

First Reading

Psalm 98:1-5

Second Reading

John 3:1-17

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Hopeful Skeptics Welcome Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

*Affirmation of Faith

from The Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Reception of New Members

Offering

Green Prayer Request Cards and Welcome Cards are located in the pew racks. Please put them and your offering in the collection plates as they are passed.

To give via sms, please text “centraldenver” (no spaces) to 73256. You will be asked to enter your credit card info. Thank you for your gifts.

Offertory

Reach Down, Lord from A Vision Unfolding

Kyle Pederson
Kirsten Schatz, soprano
The Chancel Choir
Mallory Bernstein, piano

*Doxology



Prayers of the Church

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God of compassion, **we offer our prayers to you.**

The Lord's Prayer

...praying as Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Victor Labenske
Mallory Bernstein, piano

Two Rons, Three Pauls

Do you know what Paul had to say about slavery, the role of women, or almost any other topic? Would it surprise you to learn that, in addition to the actual Paul, two or more other authors wrote in the apostle's name, straying from his original message? Join Ron Covey and Ron LaRocque as we strive to uncover the authentic Paul's radical vision (an actual, mystical vision!) of God's justice and how it can be practiced in the here and now. **East Classroom 11:45 a.m., Sundays Sept 21, 28 and Oct 5, 12.**

Help Support Immigrant Detainees and Their Families by Donating Nutritious Snacks

The GEO Detention Center in Aurora is a for-profit prison with a capacity of 1,600. When visits are allowed, relatives may wait for hours inside the facility and are warned that if they leave for any reason, they will lose their place in line. In response, the Interfaith Immigration Network has teamed up with Casa De Paz and launched a project to support these families by providing visitation accompaniment at the Aurora GEO Detention Center. Along with offering a compassionate presence, volunteers will share snack bags to help children and family members endure the long and stressful process.

Central will be collecting nonperishable, nutritious snacks — such as protein bars, granola bars, cheese or peanut butter crackers, Belvita breakfast biscuits, small bags of chips, etc. in the Tower Room (off Narthex) beginning September 14. This is an ecumenical effort, with faith communities across the Denver metro area joining together to support families with detained loved ones. It's a small act of kindness that can make a big difference.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Central will receive this PCUSA Special Offering on World Communion Sunday, Oct 5. Our goal is \$2200 with our local portion designated for *Guns to Gardens*. Give generously to support peace in our local, national, and international communities.

We are glad to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Central Presbyterian Church.

Free Sunday Parking | 8:00 a.m.—1:30p.m.
Key Park is located across the street, with its main entrance on 16th Avenue.

Wells Fargo Center Parking Garage. You must get a parking validation ticket from an usher. When exiting garage insert your entry ticket into the exit column followed by the parking validation ticket.

Elderly and differently-abled individuals may park in the three handicapped parking spaces in front of the church.

Online Giving

Set up one-time or automatic giving for your offerings. www.centraldenver.com/give

Children in Worship

Central values having all generations worshipping together. All children are welcome in the worship space each and every Sunday. We enjoy and expect the joyful noises of children as they are a vibrant part of our faith community.

- Nursery Care for infants and toddlers is available from 9:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
- Worship activity bags are available in the Narthex.

Contact Molly Brown at molly@centraldenver.com with questions or to be added to the Children, Youth and Families mailing list (weekly emails with events and more).

Join Us for Worship Online

For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we continue to livestream our morning worship service at 10:30 a.m.: centraldenver.com/livestream. *Those without internet access are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 1.339.207.6673 at the time of the service.*

Weekly Email Newsletter

The best way to stay informed about activities at Central is to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, which goes out every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at: www.centraldenver.com/contact

The deadline for copy for the bulletin and the eVoice is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Any submissions after this deadline will be featured in the following week's publication.



Ways to Connect

Serendipity Women's Group

October 9, 6:30 p.m.

Serendipity, an informal group welcoming all women, meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 9, at the home of Gina Batali-Brooks in the Highlands, just west of downtown Denver Friendship, conversation and refreshments is our agenda. RSVPs to gina.batalibrooks@gmail.com or 303.246.6743.

Men's Night Out

September 25, 6:00 p.m.

Tom Clarke is hosting this month—6:00 p.m. on September 25 at Montview Manor, just south of City Park. He'll be baking a ham, yams and bread, so your salad, vegetable, beverages and/or dessert will be welcome complements. There's street parking and carpooling is encouraged. Please RSVP to tarts2020@gmail.com or 303.322.4401 to confirm.

Theology on Tap

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

We get together at local breweries to enjoy fellowship and discuss questions of faith. Please contact Charis Smith (charis@centraldenver.com) to be added to the email list for locations.

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Join us in the Choir Room as we sing together, build community and grow in our knowledge of all things musical. All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study

2nd Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

All women are welcome. Please visit centraldenver.com or email charis@centraldenver.com for access to the Zoom link. Our first meeting of the new Bible Study year will be Thursday, September 11.

Staff Directory

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