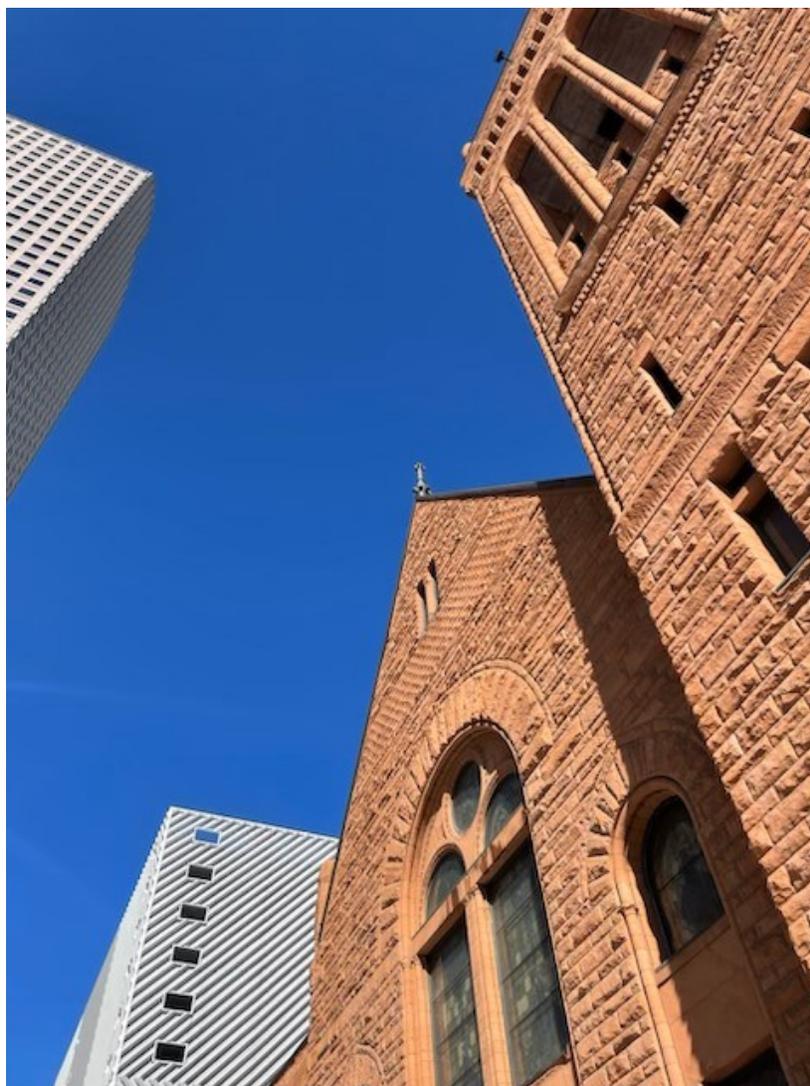


Central

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 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

Away in a Manger

arr. William J. Kirkpatrick
Abigail Enssle, harp

Welcome

Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

Gathering Music

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Call to Worship

The Malone Family

Rejoice, for God is near.

Joy rises in unexpected places.

Like Mary and Elizabeth, we come together—

carrying stories, bearing hope.

The Holy One is doing a new thing.

**Our spirits rejoice and our hearts are glad.
Let us worship God with joy!**

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

In a world longing for gladness and hope,
we light a candle for joy.

Joy that surprises, joy that sustains.

Joy that leapt at the news of God's promise,
and overflowed in a song of praise.

**Joy that lifts the lowly and fills hearts
with courage.**

God's delight does not ignore our pain,
but enters our lives, strengthening what is weary.

**Today we light the third candle, trusting God's
joy is rising. Come, Joy of the world; fill us and
guide us.**

The third candle is lit.

*Hymn 93

Lift Up Ye Heads

Time With the Younger Church

Sherry Kenney

The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem
Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2

*(Children may gather at the communion
table to hear and see the Bible story.)*

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, your joy breaks into the world,
yet we confess how often we resist it.
At times we cling to worry,
hang on to past hurts,
or assume that nothing can change.
Forgive us when we fail to trust your good news.
Stir our spirits as you stirred Mary's—
that we may rejoice in your mercy,
welcome your justice,
and bear your hope into the world.**

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: God clothes us with mercy,
covering us with grace and new life.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Response

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

[Please share signs of peace with one another]

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is Born!**

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Second Reading

Luke 1:39-55

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

Sermon

The Joy That Moves Us

Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

Hymn 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

*Affirmation of Joy

We believe joy takes root where God draws near—
among the humble, within community,
and wherever justice seeks restoration and repair.
We believe joy is our faith made visible—
a choice to bless, to connect, and to share
the good news.
We believe joy lives even in sorrow,
for God is present in all things,
holding our grief and kindling hope.
Therefore, we choose love.
We choose community.
We choose joy.

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.

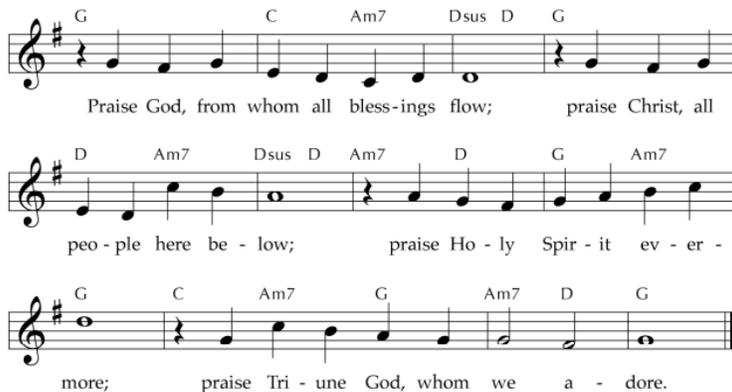
To give via sms, please text “centraldenver” (no spaces) to 73256. You will be asked to enter your credit card info. Thank you for your gifts.

Offertory

*This Little Babe from
A Ceremony of Carols*

Benjamin Britten
Abigail Ennsle, harp
The Chancel Choir

*Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all
peo-ple here be-low; praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-
more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore.

Candle Lighting for Gun Violence Awareness and Hope

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

**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 134

Joy to the World

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Mallory Bernstein, piano

Some of our liturgy this season comes from the Advent worship series, *The Will to Dream*, © 2025 Illustrated Ministry, LLC.

The Giving Tree for Guadalupe

Check out the tree next to our Chapel. The ornaments denote gift wishes for children accessing services at The Guadalupe Project. Follow the instructions on the ornament and return wrapped, labeled gifts to Central by December 22.

Contact molly@centraldenver.com with questions.

Socks of Love for

Heartbeat Denver Residents

Join in Central's annual tradition of stuffing 120 pairs of warm socks with helpful winter items for our neighbors at Heartbeat Denver Working Men's Program. Stay after worship today to prepare the socks in assembly-line style. Children will deliver these Socks of Love to Heartbeat Denver after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. See eVoice for link to sign up. Contact ezemanick@gmail.com.

Christmas Joy Offering

Central will receive PCUSA's Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 21. This Special Offering assists church staff with financial hardships (medical or emergency costs) plus provides scholarships and leadership opportunities at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that serve communities of color.

Christmas Eve Services

Celebrate the season with Central by attending one of our two Christmas Eve services. At 5:00 p.m., a family friendly Candlelight Service; from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., join us for fellowship, treats and the sounds of the Denver Brass in the Narthex, followed by a Candlelight Service in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m.

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

Serendipity, an informal group welcoming all women, meets 6:30—8:30 p.m., Thursday, January 8, at the home of Lynne Brown in Curtis Park. Friendship, conversation and refreshments is our agenda. RSVP's to lynnebrown001@gmail.com or 303.845.2496.

Men's Night Out

Gather in participants' homes for conversation, food and drink, with Central men of all ages. Please contact Larry Armstrong 303.875.7808 or Larry@larrydarmstrong.com for more information.

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.

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.

Staff Directory

Pastor, Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

dorothy@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6281

Director of Mission & Faith Formation, Molly Brown

molly@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6285

Director of Music & Church Administrator, Charis Smith

charis@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6283

Facilities Manager, Jon Dreux

jon@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6282

Concert Manager, Glenn Ross

concerts@centraldenver.com

Digital Production Manager, Kristian Bringedahl