



SEASON OF LENT

## Strangers and Sojourners: God of the Other

MARCH 3, 2024

### *The Hospitality of Abraham by Angelos Akotantos, 14th Century*

This icon depicts the story of Sarah and Abraham hosting three guests by the Oak of Mamre (Genesis 18). These three strangers, who turn out to be the presence of God, announce good news about God's faithfulness to the forebears of Israel. This story has been interpreted as a call to extend radical hospitality to all strangers who are in our midst. After all, as the writer of Hebrews says, we may be "entertaining angels unawares" (Hebrews 13).



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Central is a caring community of faith that includes members, friends, and visitors. We give thought to those who are rarely or currently not able to attend worship here. **Today, we keep in our prayers Jacquie Young.**

## CHILDREN

Children are a beloved part of our community and always welcome in the sanctuary with you. At the back of the room are activity bags and books for them to enjoy during their time in worship. Infants through age 6 are also invited to spend the worship hour in our nursery on the upper level, playing and learning together. Changing tables are available in our restrooms with diapering supplies available in the nursery.

## FLOWERS

If you would like to bring flowers to place on the chancel for worship in recognition of a special moment or event, contact the office.

## PHOTOGRAPHY & SOCIAL MEDIA

You are in a space where live stream videography and photography will occur. To review our photography and media use policy, go to [www.centralforgood.org/photography](http://www.centralforgood.org/photography).

## LICENSE

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## ACCESSIBILITY



Large print worship bulletins and hymns are available from the ushers or in back of the sanctuary.



The sanctuary is T-coil enabled for those with the hearing aid technology. Sound amplification devices are also available from ushers.



Reserved accessible parking and a wheelchair ramp are available in the MPR lot off 9th Street East. Accessible restrooms are in the hall by side sanctuary doors and on the lower level.

## PARKING

Free parking is available Sundays in the MPR lot, KCP lot, and the World Trade Center Parking Ramp across Cedar Street. If parking in the ramp, see an usher for a voucher to pay your ramp fees.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Central Presbyterian Church occupies the sacred land of the Dakota people. Broken treaties and the systematic loss of life and land led directly to the availability of this sacred space which we presume to possess today. Our faith demands confession of the evils from which we benefit, action to support Indigenous peoples seeking justice, and lives guided by love. We keep this in our minds and hearts as we worship today. For the full statement of our commitment to action, visit our website at [www.centralforgood.org/land](http://www.centralforgood.org/land).

# Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church

Whether you are sharing worship with us in our historic sanctuary or watching online, we hope you feel the vitality of our people, our ministry and our focus on the present. If you are looking for a place to put your faith into action or for a community to provide support and inspiration, we are looking for you. Central is open and affirming of all people. If you are visiting today, we invite you to fill out a Connect card in the pews and drop it in the offering plate.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

As we gather in this space to worship, let us listen for God's voice by silencing our cell phones and using the music to bring us into a time of reflection and prayer.

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit

## We Gather in God's Presence

### PRELUDE

Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano; Alex Woods, piano

*Lord I Just Can't Keep From Cryin'* (by Margaret Bonds)

### ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - Adapted Psalm 63

Matt Ehling

One: O God, we seek you, thirsting in a dry and weary land.

All: **We look upon you in the sanctuary and behold your glory.**

One: Your steadfast love is better than life.

All: **So our lips will praise you, and we will bless you as long as we live.**

### ✦ OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you make yourself known throughout creation and through all peoples. Help us to not only recognize your love and purposes in our own lives, but in the lives of others. May we honor the way that you reveal yourself through those who we would call other and stranger, and may that revelation transform our own lives. In Jesus' name, we pray.

### ✦ HYMN

*God is Calling Through the Whisper*

Hymn #410

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

One: The peace of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you all.

All: **And, also with you.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: In the sure hope of forgiveness, let us confess our sins to God.

All: God, we claim you as our own, but you are beyond possession. We understand you through our own experience, but you transcend the smallness of our experiences. Forgive us for the times that we have made you in our own image, for the times we have coopted you for our purposes, for the times we have seen you only through our own agendas. Open us to a more expansive view of your love and intentions for all creation, and give us ears to hear you through the strangers and sojourners we encounter day by day.

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Through Jesus Christ, God became one of us. God knows our struggles and shortcomings and has compassion. Because God came not to condemn but to restore, we can proclaim with the confidence of God's beloved:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

## We Listen for God's Voice

## TIME FOR CHILDREN

Jennifer Anderson

*Please see announcements for details on today's ministry programs. If you are new to Central, please come with your child in order to meet our staff and provide emergency contact information.*

## SENDING SONG

Go now in peace, go now in peace  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, you are speaking. Open our hearts and minds to hear your voice and follow your call. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READING - John 4:1-30, 39-42

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## SERMON - Strangers and Sojourners: God of the Other

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

## We Respond to God's Gifts

## CALL FOR OFFERING

*You are invited to place offering gifts and completed pew cards in the plates as ushers pass them. You may also give online at [www.centralforgood.org/give](http://www.centralforgood.org/give) or submit to the office during normal office hours.*



## OFFERTORY

Clara Osowski, soloist; Central Choir

*Give My Heart (Poor Wayfaring Stranger)* (by Linda Kachelmeier)

## ✦ SONG OF DEDICATION

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Hymn#223 verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

## ✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, you are generous. As we return a portion of what you have given us, may it be used to proclaim your love in words and actions, here and everywhere. Amen.

## We Are Fed by God's Love

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

*During the season of Lent, the Lord's Prayer is adapted from the First Nations Version of the New Testament, translated and edited by Native North Americans.*

O Great Spirit, our Father from above, we honor your name as sacred and holy. Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below. Provide for us day by day all the things we need for each day. Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us. Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways. For your good road, power, and honor will never end. Amen.

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## SHARING THE MEAL

*All are welcome to the table! Please come forward through the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Bread is available in baskets, and grape juice either in cups or by intinction (dipping). Gluten free wafers are also available when you come forward. If you would like to remain seated, communion will be brought to you.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Clara Osowski, soloist; Central Choir

*The Road That Leads You Home* (by B. Kornelis)

## PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Lord, you feed us in body and spirit. Send us into the world nourished to proclaim your blessings.

## We Are Sent Into God's World

### ✦ HYMN

*I Come With Joy*

Hymn #515

### ✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION - Adapted from Jeremiah 29

One: We have gathered together in this sacred place to worship God, be formed as disciples of Jesus, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit. God is now sending us out to bless the world.

All: **Therefore we will seek the good of the city where God has called us. We will pray for it, open our doors with compassion, serve our neighbors, and be attentive to God's presence; for in its good we will find our own.**

One: God is out there.

All: **Let us go forth!**

## POSTLUDE

Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano; Alex Woods, piano

*Touch the Hem of His Garment* (by Margaret Bonds)

## IN CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY TODAY

CHILDREN AGE BIRTH – 6: Our beautiful nursery is staffed by professional caregivers and full of fun toys and good friends. Childcare is available from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. today.

GRADES K – 8: Sunday Connection for K-8 follows the Time for Children upstairs in the Galilee Room. (Sign your child in at the back of the sanctuary before worship, then pick them up in the Galilee Room at 11:30 a.m.)

GRADES 6 - 12: Lifeboats and Compass fellowship groups will meet upstairs in the Galilee Room.

If you are new to Central, or have questions about ministry for those under 18, we invite you to reach out to Jennifer Anderson at [jennifera@centralforgood.org](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org).

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

Rev. Lou Bender steps to the pulpit. Music will be sung by Central Choir, led by Jane Ramseyer Miller and accompanied by pianist Alex Woods.

## Announcements

View our church calendar and share upcoming events at [www.centralforgood.org/calendar](http://www.centralforgood.org/calendar).

### Call to Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held in-person today in the sanctuary immediately following worship. This meeting will discuss corporation business, hear reports of Session, and receive the annual report.

Copies of the annual report are available at the back of the sanctuary. You can also download it from Central's website at [www.centralforgood.org/annual-report](http://www.centralforgood.org/annual-report). You may request that a copy be mailed to you by calling the office at (651) 224-4728 ext. 100.

### Discussion on Interfaith Action's Proposed Partnership

As Central discerns a call to partner with Interfaith Action to open our doors to a program to help migrants to Minnesota, we want to hear from YOU.

After today's congregational meeting, join us in the Friendship Room to discuss what this partnership might mean for Central and the ministry we do together. Extending Jesus' radical hospitality often means changing our ways and expectations, so we want to hear what you're excited for and what concerns you may have. In the meantime, please feel free to share your questions with Pastor Chris.

### Adult Faith Formation Class Rescheduled

The March 3 Faith Formation discussion with Pastor Chris on Gender Equality has been rescheduled for March 17 at noon. Attendees can take part in Third Sunday Lunch, then head to the upstairs meeting lounge.

### Homeless Day on the Hill

Affordable housing is an issue affecting everyone in our community. Get involved by engaging your lawmakers and letting them know housing and homelessness are important issues to you.

On Wednesday, March 20, Central will again welcome advocates from the Twin Cities for Homeless Day on the Hill. You are invited to attend and show your support for vital issues facing those with housing insecurity.

The schedule for the day is:

- 8 - 9 AM: Registration
- 9 - 10 AM: Advocacy Training
- 10 - 3 PM: Meetings at the Capitol

Attendees will start the day at Central then head to the Minnesota State Capitol (75 Rev. Martin Luther King Drive, St. Paul) for group meetings with legislators. For more info, go to the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless website at [www.mnhomelesscoalition.org](http://www.mnhomelesscoalition.org).

# This Week at Central

## SUNDAY 03/03

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
- 11:25 a.m. Congregational Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 11:30 a.m. Lifeboats & Compass Gather
- 11:45 a.m. Interfaith Listening Sessions
- 7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

## TUESDAY 03/05 - PRIMARY ELECTION

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Facilities Management Meeting

## WEDNESDAY 03/06

- 11:30 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch
- 7:15 p.m. Central Choir Rehearsal

## SATURDAY 03/09

- 11:00 Volunteer at St. Paul Opportunity Center

## SUNDAY 03/10

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Worship with Rev. Lou Bender
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

## SHARE HOLY WEEK TOGETHER

- Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday
- Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday
- Friday, March 29 - Good Friday
- Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

This year we will share portions of Holy Week with First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul. They will join us at Central for Maundy Thursday and we will go there for Good Friday services. We hope you will join us for this and other services in reflection and celebration of this time.

## The Central Team

(651) 224-4728

### PASTOR

Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen  
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### ADMINISTRATION

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Custodians: Lavar Jones, Peter Evarts

### MINISTRIES

Jennifer Anderson,  
Director of Music & Youth Ministry  
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### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Child Care Staff: Megan Beese,  
Jess Garner, Maria Stokes

Laura Walls,  
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### MUSIC LEADERSHIP

Eric Bartlett, Abbie Betinis, Paul Damico-Carper,  
Shanta Hejmadi, Tonia Hughes Kendrick,  
Melanie Ohnstad, Clara Osowski,  
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Barb Westman, Community Lunch  
Chef & Kitchen Manager