

WELCOME TO CENTRAL
Reflections on Stewardship

OCTOBER 8, 2023



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 Margorie Elliott.**

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.

LICENSE

The music in today's bulletin is reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net A-71257.

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.

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

Praise Unfolding (by S. Eithun)

Handbell Ensemble

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - From Isaiah 55

Juniper Beath

One: Just as the rain and snow come down from the sky

All: **and don't return there without watering the earth,**

One: so is God's word that comes from God's mouth.

All: **It does not return empty, but accomplishes God's purposes.**

✦ OPENING PRAYER

You give us gifts in due season, nourishing us with all we need. Help us to be mindful of those gifts, using them for the purposes for which you intend – nurturing discipleship, enacting justice, and honoring all Creation. Amen.

✦ HYMN

Come Sing, O Church, In Joy

Hymn #305

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

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

All: **And also with you.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Mary Miller

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: **God, we confess before you and in the presence of our siblings that we have sinned in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. We have not loved you fully, nor have we loved others or your world as you have called us. In your mercy, forgive us, and set us back on paths that lead to the abundance of life. In Jesus' name, we pray.** 3

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: From the beginning of all things, God had in mind to create, redeem, and sustain all things for good. Therefore, with the confidence of the children of God, we proclaim:

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 (by N. Sleeth) - United States

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 - Ephesians 4:7-16

REFLECTION

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

We Respond to God's Gifts

CALL FOR OFFERING

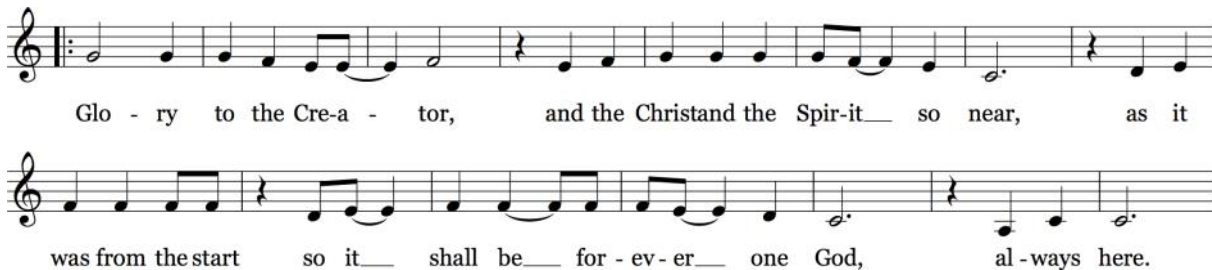
You are invited to place offering gifts and completed pew cards in the plates as ushers pass them. You may also give online at www.centralforgood.org/give or submit to the office during normal office hours.

OFFERTORY

Central Choir; Alex Woods, piano

Loving Will Lead Us On (by L. Kachelmeier)

✦ DOXOLOGY



Glo - ry to the Cre-a - tor, and the Christ and the Spir-it__ so near, as it
was from the start so it__ shall be__ for - ev - er__ one God, al - ways here.

✦ 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.

✦ RECESSIONAL HYMN

Great God of Every Blessing

Hymn #694

✦ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

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!**

SOLO

Alex Woods, piano

How Great Thou Art (arr. Mark Hayes)

Please remain in the sanctuary for a churchwide discussion to begin our season of stewardship. This conversation is open to all. If you don't have stewardship information, it's available from an usher. Childcare will be available until 11:30.

GIVING

Be it regular giving, special offerings, or a donation drive, Central offers a variety of options to fit your needs.



Drop in the Offering Plate
Each Sunday during worship



Mail a Check
500 Cedar St, St. Paul, MN 55101



Deliver In Person
Bring to office (M-Th 9am-3:30pm)



Donate Online
www.centralforgood.org/give



Text Giving Via Credit Card
Text givecentral to 73256.



Bank Account Transfer
Set up one time or recurring online

Have Questions? Call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100 or email office@centralforgood.org.

Announcements

View our church calendar and share upcoming events at www.centralforgood.org/calendar.

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 1 – 5: Sunday Connection class follows the Time for Children. Sign your child in at the back table near the Ushers. Pick up in the Orange Room upstairs at 11:30.

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.

Gifts to the Handbell Ensemble

Today our Handbell Ensemble is ringing a new octave of bells donated by the following:

- Lynne and John Severson
- Margaret and Jim Cellette, in memory of Margaret's mother Kathryn C. Breed (Mrs. M. Edwards) 1916 - 1978. "Her faith, love of life, family, learning, and music is woven into my everyday life."
- Casey Wells

We give thanks for the donors' generosity and look forward to making more music to the Glory of God with these new bells!

Interested in Membership?

Join us after worship on October 22 for a new members Inquirer's Class to learn more about what membership at Central means – who we are, what we believe, and why being a member matters. We'll gather from 11:45 to

1:00 p.m., including a brief tour of our historic building! RSVP to Pastor Chris at chriscs@centralforgood.org.

All-Church Variety Show

Do you juggle or dance? How about play guitar or know a joke or two? Come share your talent and cheer on others at our All-Ages Talent Show on Sunday, October 29 at 6:30 pm. To register your act, pick up the October newsletter for the submission form and return it to the church office.

CREO Dance Returns to Worship

Next Sunday, Central will again welcome dancers from CREO Arts & Dance Conservatory to worship. The conservatory teaches young dancers to improvise in the spirit, explore their faith through Biblical understanding, and express the message of Gospel through performance. They will be dancing to the music *Draw the Circle Wide*.

Community Event Against Gun Violence

On Saturday, October 14, Central will host an event of Lament and Hope in the face of the epidemic of gun violence in our community and beyond.

We invite members of Central and partners across the community to stand together as we honor the work of those who stand for non-violence and reform, and lament the grievous injury that gun violence does to those – all humans – made in God’s sacred image.

During the time we gather – from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – we’ll have an opportunity to memorialize our neighbors lost to gun violence over the past few years, hear testimony from members of the community, and reflect on how our common faith urges us towards a more just and peaceful future. Included will be an outdoor temporary memorial, presence from community partners, and a striking visual representation of the work we are called to – blacksmiths transforming disassembled pieces of firearms into garden tools, a reminder of the Biblical call to transform our tools of violence into tools of life.

Volunteers are needed to greet, set up, and be a hospitable presence for all who gather. If you’d like to volunteer or receive more information, email the Central office, speak with Virgie Bundy, or sign up in the Friendship Room on Sundays.

Central is In the City for Good. Help take one more step towards that good.

Did You Know?

A beloved and important feature of our church building is the many stained-glass windows on all levels, including in the attic!

The two large half-round windows on the west and south sides originally were identical. The glass on the south side facing MPR is original. For many years it was not visible because a multi-story parking garage had been built onto that side of the church in the current green space. The parking garage was demolished when the land was sold to MPR. MPR agreed to provide funds to restore the stained-glass window. The matching window on the west side facing Cedar Avenue was damaged in a storm in 1949. Over the years it became unstable and much of the glass was broken. Unfortunately, when it was repaired in 1975 the unusual brown glass used in the original design had fallen out of favor and was no longer available. In its place, orange glass was substituted in the west window.

There is a persistent rumor that there is an original Tiffany stained-glass window in the church. An expert from England who was compiling a catalogue of Tiffany windows visited the church in the early part of this century. He identified a window that he felt was most likely a Tiffany although we do not have any documentation that would enable him to confirm that.

Can you guess which one it is?

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 10/08

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

MONDAY 10/09

- 6:00 p.m. Finance & Stewardship Meets
8:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Meets

TUESDAY 10/10

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY 10/11

- 11:45 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch
6:00 p.m. Bell Ensemble Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. Central Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY 10/14

- 10:00 a.m. *Lament & Hope: Community Event Against Gun Violence*
Registration: 10:00 a.m.
Program 10:30 - 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 10/15

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Third Sunday Lunch
11:30 a.m. Lifeboats Fellowship Meets
6:30 p.m. Compass Fellowship Meets
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

Pastor Chris preaches on Acts 8:26-40 as we highlight the ministry of welcome and hospitality at Central. Music includes the Central Choir with Paul Damico-Carper, song leader and guitarist. The CREO Arts & Dance Conservatory returns.

The Central Team

(651) 224-4728

PASTOR

Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen
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ADMINISTRATION

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William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Receptionist

Custodians: Lavar Jones, Peter Evarts

MINISTRIES

Jennifer Anderson,
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CHILDREN & YOUTH

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

Laura Walls,
Sunday Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org

MUSIC LEADERSHIP

Eric Bartlett, Abbie Betinis, Paul Damico-Carper,
Shanta Hejmadi, Tonia Hughes Kendrick,
Melanie Ohnstad, Clara Osowski,
Adam Van der Sluis, Alexander Woods

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader
maureens@centralforgood.org

Barb Westman, Community Lunch
Chef & Kitchen Manager