

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Redemption Songs

NOVEMBER 26, 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 Jacqueline Vosecky.**

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

Alex Woods, piano

Songs Without Words op. 38/1 "The Evening Star" (by Felix Mendelssohn)

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - From Isaiah 9

Mary Miller

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

One: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

All: He will establish and uphold justice and righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: As we wait patiently for the coming of our Lord, let us turn to God in the sure hope of salvation.

All: Lord, we come this day in anticipation of the ways you enter into the world to bring about your purposes of love and justice. We also know that we are often the ones that persist in creating the world of inhumanity and injustice in which we too often live. May the anticipation we feel this day change our whole lives, not only in this season, but forever. Change us from the inside out so that we might leave Jesus' Nativity like the shepherds and magi – great news of good tidings upon our hearts and our lips, and joy in our hearts. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: God came and is coming into the world not for condemnation, but for new life written in God's love. Therefore with joy and expectation, we proclaim together:

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

✠ HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn #88, verses 1, 2, 6, 7

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

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

All: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

Members of Session

One: This first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope. Since the beginning, the people of God have placed their hope in God for a new and redeemed life.

All: **When the people of Israel were captive in Egypt, they hoped for liberation.**

One: When the prophets lamented over injustice, they hoped for a society made new.

All: **When Mary heard the proclamation of the angel, she hoped that the world would be about to turn.**

One: Hope is the boldness to proclaim that what is shall not always be because God is at work in the world to make all things right. Hope leads us to envision the world and our lives as God envisions them, renewed because God is in and through them. Let us pray.

All: **God, as we anticipate your coming into our world, give us a deep well of hope. In the face of bad news that might lead to despair, instead make us to hope in your love and grace which is raising up a new world. Make us to be agents of that hope to one another, offering love where it is lacking. In the name of the coming Messiah, we pray. Amen.**

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

SCRIPTURE READING - Ezekiel 15:1-8, 13

SOLO Clara Osowski, mezzo soprano; Alex Woods, piano
The Call (by Vaughan Williams)

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 1:46-55

SERMON - "Redemption Songs"

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

We Respond to God's Gifts

✠HYMN

Canticle of the Turning

Hymn #100

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

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

Clara Osowski, mezzo soprano; Alex Woods, piano

I Wonder As I Wander (by John Jacob Niles)

✠ SONG OF RESPONSE



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures



here be - low. Praise God a-bove, ye heaven - ly host. Cre-



- a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-



- man - - u - el, Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

✦ 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 Sent Into God's World

✦ HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hymn #82

✦ 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

Rise Up, Shepherd (by Margaret Bonds)

Alex Woods, piano

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 K—8: There is no Sunday Connection today. Children are invited to stay in worship.

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.

December Newsletter Available

December is a busy month, so don't miss out on any of the events and announcements! Pick up a hard copy by the church entrances or download a digital copy on our website at www.centralforgood.org/newsletter to stay in the loop with all that is happening.

Want the newsletter delivered to your mailbox or inbox each month? Subscribe on our website or contact the church office to be added to our mailing list.

Thank You for Your Pledges

Thank you to those who have turned in your pledge for 2024 giving as part of our Stewardship Dedication Sunday. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, we encourage you to still submit one. Pledges to the church help the Finance and Stewardship Committee create a budget for the upcoming year and will be accepted through December.

If you have not yet paid your Per Capita for the year, it is \$37.50 per member and can be given through offering or direct to the office by denoting 'per capita' in the check memo field or envelope.

Offering Envelopes

Would you like to get a box of weekly offering envelopes to use for your financial contributions to Central? Central distributes (upon request) a boxed set of giving envelopes that are dated for each Sunday of the year, including several special offerings. Did you get a box of envelopes this year, but do not use them? We will happily take you off the list to save paper and printing costs.

Please contact the church office at office@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 to order a box or cancel your order for next year. If you received a box this year, and want to continue again, you need not do anything.

Adult Faith Formation Next Week

TOPIC: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

While the rise of mass incarceration should be deeply alarming to anyone looking at the American judicial system, the way that faith and the Bible has shaped our public consciousness about crime should not go unnoticed.

Americans have used the Bible to advocate for quasi-theocratic criminal justice. We've justified solitary confinement as "penitential." We've appealed to Christian nationalism in being "tough on crime." However, we also have appealed to Scripture for mercy and justice as reconciliation and restoration.

How will we read and interpret Scripture, and how will our reading appeal to our better angels as we pursue God's justice for all people? Join Pastor Chris at 11:30 am on Sunday, December 3 in the Upstairs Lounge for a Biblical discussion on criminal justice and a Christian response.

Save the Date for TubaChristmas!

Our tradition of hosting TubaChristmas continues as we welcome sometimes as many as 120 low-brass players to our sanctuary on Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 p.m. The concert features well-known Christmas carols played in 4-part harmony by players of all ages and levels. A free-will offering will be collected during the concert to help cover the costs associated with hosting the Wednesday Community Lunch.

If you play Tuba, Sousaphone, Euphonium or Baritone and would like to play in this fun

concert, contact Carol Jensen, organizer of the Twin Cities TubaChristmas, at 612-788-3516 or cmj01a@msn.com. All ages welcome with players ranging from 10 - 80.

Central needs volunteers to serve as greeters, ushers, and offering counters. To sign up, simply visit Central's website at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.

Will You Help?

Christmas is a busy time at Central and we are in great need of volunteers to serve in many areas! All roles are easy to fill and offer you the opportunity to welcome others to the Central and show them who we are as a community. Will you volunteer for just one?

- **Deck the Halls** (Help us set up for volunteers on Friday, December 1 and/or decorate Central for Christmas on Saturday, December 2).
- **TubaChristmas Ushers** (Welcome guests and collect donations next Sunday, December 3 at 4 pm).
- **Coffee Service** (Serve coffee and refreshments during fellowship hour after worship).
- **Worship Ushers** (Welcome guests to worship, distribute bulletins, and assist with receiving offerings during our heavily attended services this month).
- **Sanctuary Pew Patrol** (Help our pews stay clean, organized, and stocked).

Help us maintain a vibrant and welcoming church culture and community. Sign up at: www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.



Children and Youth Pageant

This the first week of Advent, but our youngest church members have already been hard at work getting ready for another fun, yet meaningful, Christmas pageant.

This year's play, written by Central's own Jeff Jones, lies at the intersection of the Old and New Testament with some very unexpected players in the Nativity!

- Rehearsal will be December 3 during worship.
- Dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 9 from 9:30 - 11:15 a.m.

The pageant will be shared in worship (and live-streamed) on December 10. Invite your friends and family for a wonderful morning of storytelling.



ADVENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars to join us throughout the Advent season as we prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - 10:30 A.M.

Advent begins with soloist Clara Osowski.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 - 10:00 A.M.

Deck the Halls Brunch with the Women of Central and Decorating at 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 - 10:30 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 - 9:30 A.M.

Children's Pageant Dress Rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. (Prior rehearsals on will be held on November 12, 19, and December 3).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 10:30 A.M.


Third Sunday of Advent including presentation of the Children's Pageant.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - 10:30 A.M.

Advent service featuring *Nine Lessons and Carols* and soloist Tonia Hughes Kendrick.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Worship Services at 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Service. (There will be no morning worship service).



SAVE THE DATE

Deck the Halls

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

This is a fun annual tradition for all ages, offering an opportunity to get to know others in our congregation and enjoy creating together a holiday setting at Central!

BRUNCH & CONVERSATION

Join us in the dining room at 10:00 am for a delicious brunch, sponsored by the Women of Central and prepared by our amazing volunteers. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult to cover food costs.

ANNUAL MITTEN TREE

We will collect handmade and purchased mittens, gloves, and scarves for this year's Mitten Tree donation to those in need through the Central Closet. Look for the tree in the dining room during brunch.

DECORATING FUN

Beginning at 11:00 a.m., we need many volunteers to hang greenery outside as well as garlands and bows on the balcony railing, place poinsettias and hang swags in the sanctuary, set up trees and crèche in the Friendship Room and the lower entry, and decorate the sanctuary tree.

Sign up to help at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.



Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias

Orders are due by Sunday, December 17.

This December, we continue with a Central tradition to decorate the church with beautiful greenery and poinsettias. To donate to the decorating fund (perhaps in memory or honor of a loved one), complete the following and return with payment to the office or the offering plate.

Christmas decorations will start to take their place around the church during our Deck the Halls event on December 2. To have your memorial listed in the Christmas bulletin, please submit donations by December 17.

Your Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

If you are purchasing in honor or memory of someone, please list their name(s): _____

PLANT	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Small Poinsettia	\$11.00		
Large Poinsettia	\$20.00		
Evergreen Swag	\$21.00		
Evergreen Wreath	\$25.00		

TOTAL DUE \$ _____



Checks should be made payable to Central Presbyterian Church.

Return orders to the Sunday worship offering plate or to the office.

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 11/26 - 1st Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Deacon's Meeting
11:30 a.m. Knitting Group
11:45 a.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

TUESDAY 11/28

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Anti-Racism Task Force

WEDNESDAY 11/29

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

FRIDAY 12/01

4:00 p.m. Deck the Halls Preparation

SATURDAY 12/02

10:00 a.m. Deck the Halls Brunch
11:15 a.m. Decorating

SUNDAY 12/03 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
11:30 a.m. Lifeboats
11:45 a.m. Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal
4:00 p.m. TubaChristmas
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

On the second week of advent, Pastor Chris will preach on the connections between the stories of the Exodus and the Nativity in anticipation of our pageant on Dec. 10. We will share communion, with music from the Central Choir and Alex Woods on piano.

The Central Team

(651) 224-4728

PASTOR

Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen
chriscs@centralforgood.org, ext. 102

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@centralforgood.org, ext. 100

Christie Rachelle,
Director of Communications
christier@centralforgood.org, ext. 105

Laura Nichols-Endres, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Receptionist

Custodians: Lavar Jones, Peter Evarts

MINISTRIES

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music & Youth Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org, ext. 103

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