



Worship: Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Rev. Peter Wilkinson

\* If you are able, please stand



We invite you to use this portal as a way to let us know you are here and for any joys or concerns you want to share with us.

**PRELUDE** Sleepers, Wake (J.S. Bach) - Dave Arndt, Trumpet

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES**

**Gracious God, Grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and the countries of our world. Please help us to see the paths of peace in our lives and then give us the courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.**

\* **HYMN #83** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4. By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Every moment of living is an opportunity to do something differently, to face the truth of our lives, to turn toward God in hope. Every confession of those things which lie in hearts is an opportunity to come closer to God. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession,

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you,  
But so often we get in the way of ourselves.  
We see only the deep sadness of the world,  
and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow.  
We assume that things will never get better,  
And do not see all that is good right now.  
We close our eyes and complain about the darkness,  
Rather than see the light that shines all around us.  
Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that  
as the Christ Child comes to us once again,  
We will see him, and know him, and rejoice. Amen.**

## **INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

*Please take this time for personal confession*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. So know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

(If you are participating today through Facebook,  
please register your peace for each other now)  
Since God has forgiven us in Christ,  
we also should forgive one another.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. <sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. <sup>3</sup>May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. <sup>5</sup>May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. <sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. <sup>7</sup>In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

<sup>18</sup>Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. <sup>19</sup>Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** And The Glory of The Lord [from *The Messiah*] (G.F. Handel) - The Chancel Choir

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)*

**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**SERMON**

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;

the third day he arose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING**

Virtual and in-person giving opportunities:

- 1) Online at our Easytithe site -  
<https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/centralmontclair>
- 2) Place offerings in the trays at the doors.

\* **DOXOLOGY**



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace,  
And we give in peace.  
A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear.  
A peace growing from our trust in your loving power.  
Receive these generous offerings,  
And use them to bring your peace to our world. Amen.**

### **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

**Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of  
your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\* **HYMN #119** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

\* **CHARGE/BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE** O Thou of God the Father (J.S. Bach)

Central's Mission Statement:

**“As disciples of Jesus Christ and good stewards of God’s Grace, we are a caring, inclusive congregation that strives to grow in Christian faith, proclaim the Good News, and provide service in ministry to each other, our diverse community, and the world.”**

*Central Presbyterian Church is a Covenant Network congregation, a community within the Presbyterian Church, USA, that seeks to be inclusive, particularly with regard to welcoming LGBT persons as members and leaders.*

**Nursery:** Childcare is available to children ages 0-5 from 9:45-11:45 in the nursery located across the path in the Education Building in the room visible from the sanctuary. Our nursery leader is a certified childcare provider.

### **December Birthdays**

- 2 Morgan Moulongo
- 4 David George
- 8 Aaliyah Ali
- 10 Eden Selassie
- 15 Martha Day
- 16 Karen Campbell  
Jennifer (Alissa) Cabezas  
Lauren Waisanen
- 17 Betty Girma-Hall
- 23 Shane Faber
- 24 Lukas Selassie



Sanctuary Wifi: CHURCH 5.0GHZ  
Password: john316central  
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