



**CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Worship
May 15, 2022

* If you are able, please stand

Rev. Peter Wilkinson



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 Meditation (Clarence Lucas)

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Peter Wilkinson

Here we are, the young and old,
The believing and doubting,
The weak and strong.
Here God is, almighty and merciful,
Gracious and just,
Trustworthy and true.
So since we are here, and God is here, let us worship God.

* **HYMN #236** The Strife is O'er

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!
2. The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!
3. The three sad days are quickly sped;
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!

4. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
 from death's dread sting thy servants free,
 that we may live, and sing to thee:
 Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

To open our hearts to God is to risk vulnerability, judgment, and condemnation. But throughout the scriptures, we learn that God is merciful and just, slow to anger, and eager to forgive. Let us then risk our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, hear our prayer:

**For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;
 For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;
 For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;
 For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;
 We pray for the courage to admit our fault,
 The strength to amend our actions,
 And the hope that your grace awaits us.**

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Please take this time for personal confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

Alleluia! 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 this day.
Amen

SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

The word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Behold, I Make All Things New (Hank Beebe) - The Chancel Choir

"Behold, behold! Behold, I make all things new, the old shall pass away. And I myself will dwell among you; trust in what I say. I'll wipe away all tears, and pain I will subdue. No more sorrow, no more sighing, no more dying, I promise you. Behold, I make all things new."

These words come from the Father, as the Father spoke to John. These words are true and faithful, words we can depend upon. For God will work His wonders; His will will be done. A new earth, a new heaven, with Christ shining as the sun.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SERMON

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

From: The Apostle's 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose 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 quick 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

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.

OFFERING

Virtual and in-person giving opportunities:

- 1) Online at our Easytithe site -
<https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/centralmontclair>
- 2) Text "Give" to 973-315-6494
- 3) Place offerings in the trays at the doors of the sanctuary as you depart.

Offering Prayer



* **HYMN #269** Lead on, O King, Eternal!

1. Lead on, O King eternal!
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2. Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords' loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

3. Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears;
your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light.
The crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!

* **CHARGE/BLESSING**

POSTLUDE Gloria (Clarence Lucas)

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.

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession were written by Beth Merrill Neal on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

The **steeple** is illuminated in May in loving memory of **Larry and Priscilla Stauffer**.

May Birthdays

- 2 Barbara Eveleth
Eugenia Bishop
- 4 Neal B. Day
- 5 Nina Moulongo
- 11 Curran Schestag
- 16 Loren Hoyt
- 17 Marylyn Smalls
- 20 Stephanie Fitzgerald
Pam Osborne
- 24 Lidet Hall
- 26 Mark Johansen

Sunday School: Open to children K-5th grade. Takes place each Sunday (except 1st Sunday/Communion) in the Education Building. Dismisses from sanctuary during the service.

Nursery: Childcare available to children ages 0-5 from 9:45-11:15 in the Christian Education building directly across from the sanctuary.

Wifi: CHURCH 5.0GZH
Password: john316central
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