



## CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship  
September 25, 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

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome, friend and stranger –  
**Welcome, honored guest.**  
We gather as a community to worship God,  
**To be reminded of God's goodness,**  
To be reminded of the call to be a part of that goodness.  
**Let us worship God.**

#### \* HYMN #33 Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show

1. Praise the Lord! God's glories show, Alleluia!  
saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!  
angels round the throne above, Alleluia!  
all who see and share God's love. Alleluia!
2. Earth to heaven exalt the strain, Alleluia!  
Send it, heaven, to earth again, Alleluia!  
Age to age, God's mercies trace, Alleluia!  
Praise God's providence and grace! Alleluia!
3. Strings and voices, hands and hearts, Alleluia!  
in the concert, bear your parts, Alleluia!  
All that breathes, your Lord adore, Alleluia!  
singing praise forevermore, 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, let us pray together:

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, hear our prayer. Sometimes our lives are a mess, because of choices we have made or because of choices others have made. Sometimes our lives are great, and we're kind and generous. Sometimes our lives are great and we forget to be grateful and humble. We trust that in the jumble of all of this, you are present. We trust that you are with us, walking with us when we stray, nudging us back to the right path, slowing us down when we get ahead of you, and waiting for us when we lag behind.**

**So we thank you, and ask for your forgiveness, and pray that you will stay with us throughout the journey. Amen.**

## **INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

*Please take this time for personal confession*

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends. Sisters, brothers: hear this good news and see the grace of God:  
You are forgiven. You are free to go and live in the light of love.

**Thanks be to God. 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**

Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. May we approach your Word today, Holy God, with the reverence and respect it deserves. Let us be intentional in our listening and focused in our minds as we hear your Word read and proclaimed today. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 119:105-112

<sup>05</sup>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. <sup>106</sup>I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. <sup>107</sup>I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word. <sup>108</sup>Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances. <sup>109</sup>I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. <sup>110</sup>The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. <sup>111</sup>Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. <sup>112</sup>I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

The word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM The Lord Began a Good Work in You (Mark Patterson) - The Chancel Choir**

*The Lord began a good work in you and will love you more each day. Have faith to serve Him in all you do, and He will guide the way. The Lord will be faithful to perfect His workmanship; the Lord will be faithful and love you until the end!*

*He gave us power to do all things; our strength is in His name. He gave us hope and a voice to sing; now we will give Him praise!*

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

From: Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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) Place offerings in the trays at the doors of the sanctuary as you depart.



Offering Prayer

### \* **HYMN #434** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
 like the wideness of the sea.  
 There's a kindness in God's justice,  
 which is more than liberty.  
 There is no place where earth's sorrows  
 are more felt than up in heaven.  
 There is no place where earth's failings  
 have such kindly judgment given.
  
2. For the love of God is broader  
 than the measures of the mind.  
 And the heart of the Eternal  
 is most wonderfully kind.  
 If our love were but more faithful,  
 we would gladly trust God's Word,  
 and our lives reflect thanksgiving  
 for the goodness of our Lord.

### \* **CHARGE/BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

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 Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good.’ Used with permission.

### **September Birthdays**

- 1 Alice Sturzinger
- 3 Kara Beth Johansen
- 6 Emma Justice
- 15 Heather Rose Woodward
- 23 John Finney
- 28 Ruth Ann Dodd
- 29 Doug Ewertsen

### **Next Sunday, October 2,2022, World Communion Sunday**

Passage 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Key Verse:

*Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.*

*- 2 Timothy 1:13-14 NRSV*

*So keep at your work, this faith and love rooted in Christ, exactly as I set it out for you. It’s as sound as the day you first heard it from me. Guard this precious thing placed in your custody by the Holy Spirit who works in us. - 2 Timothy 1:13-14 The Message*

I invite you to spend the week reflecting upon the passage, and specifically, these verses. What is the “good treasure” entrusted to you?

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