

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 28, 2025
First Sunday of Christmas

10AM



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Central

Get connected at Central



Whether you're just beginning to explore the Christian faith or a longtime believer, we're glad you're here and pray you will experience the love and grace of Jesus today. Central is for anyone who wants to learn more about Jesus Christ and grow together in real community.

Especially if this is your first time as our guest, welcome. We are thrilled you are here, and would love to connect with you. You are encouraged to fill out a connection card at one of our welcome tables in either lobby or in the Fellowship Hall, or simply scan the QR code.

Sundays at Central

One service today and next week at 10 am.

Beginning Jan. 11: services at 8:30am and 11:15am

Worshiping as a Family

Children are always welcome to participate in worship with their families.

There is NO nursery or children's worship today.

A nursing mother's room is located on the first floor off the Fellowship Hall and a play area for young children is located on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. The service is streaming on monitors in both locations so parents and caregivers may continue worshipping when young children need to be taken out of the service.

Accessibility

Large print bulletins are available from our ushers. Amplification devices are also available from the ushers at the rear of the sanctuary.

Welcome Registry

Located in each pew is a "Welcome Registry." We encourage you to please use this to let us know you worshiped at Central today. After putting your name down, please pass the book down your pew.

Prayer

At Central, we believe in the power of prayer. You are invited to submit your prayer requests using the cards located in the pew, or online at centralpres.com/prayer. You can also email your prayer requests to prayer@centralpres.com. If you would like to pray with someone today, please visit the prayer room after either service.

I Saw Three Ships

Jennifer Mazzoni, flute

Traditional English Carol
Arr. R. Elliott

Prelude

Standing (if able)

from Luke 2:11, 14

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Second Adam and image of God,
the true God become true man.

Give glory to God in the highest through Jesus,
who is Christ the Lord!

Hallelujah, Amen!

God Calls Us To Worship

God gathers us before
his heavenly throne for
a special time to renew
our relationship with
him together.

Once in Royal David's City



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2. He came down to earth from hea-ven who is God and Lord of all,
3. For he is our child - hood's pat-tern, day by day like us he grew.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love,
5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
He was lit - tle, weak, and help-less, tears and smiles like us he knew.
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove.
we shall see him, but in hea-ven, set at God's right hand on high,



Ma - ry was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
With the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
And he feel - eth for our sad-ness and he shar - eth in our glad-ness.
And he leads his child-ren on to the place where he is gone.
When like stars his child-ren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

We Praise God

We respond to God's
call by honoring his
majesty and goodness
in song.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848
Tune: IRBY; Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

We Pray For God To Help Us Worship

We ask the Lord to work
in us by his Holy Spirit
to give us the desire and
ability to respond to him
in worship.

God Calls Us to Confess Our Sin

We Confess Our Sin

Together as the people
of God, we acknowledge
honestly to God what
is wrong and broken
in us and ask for
his forgiveness and
transforming grace.

Merry Christmas! Jesus the Christ has come!
Christ has come indeed! Hallelujah!

Seated

from John 10:14-15; Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Prince of peace, you have promised us peace as we seek it in you.

But we often seek peace in everything but you.

**We often live without prayer in unceasing busyness,
and we suffer anxious fear that we do not bring to you.**

**We often forget your infinite power and love,
and so we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

And we have failed to live in peace with one another.

**We are prone to live in conflict and division,
returning evil for evil,**

**devouring each other in bitterness,
and refusing to forgive as we have been forgiven.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

(silent prayers of confession)

Father, forgive us for refusing the path of true peace in you. In the midst of our turmoil and trial, lift our eyes to you and lead us to pray so that we find constant strength in your presence. Let your peace to rule in our hearts so that we become a healing and peacemaking people filled with trust and hope in your provision and your promises. Amen.

Standing (if able)

from Colossians 1:15, 19-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

For all who have turned from sin in sorrow and look to God for mercy, this is God's gift. In Jesus Christ, God loves you, God forgives you, God accepts you, and God rejoices over you as beloved daughters and sons.

Hallelujah, Amen!

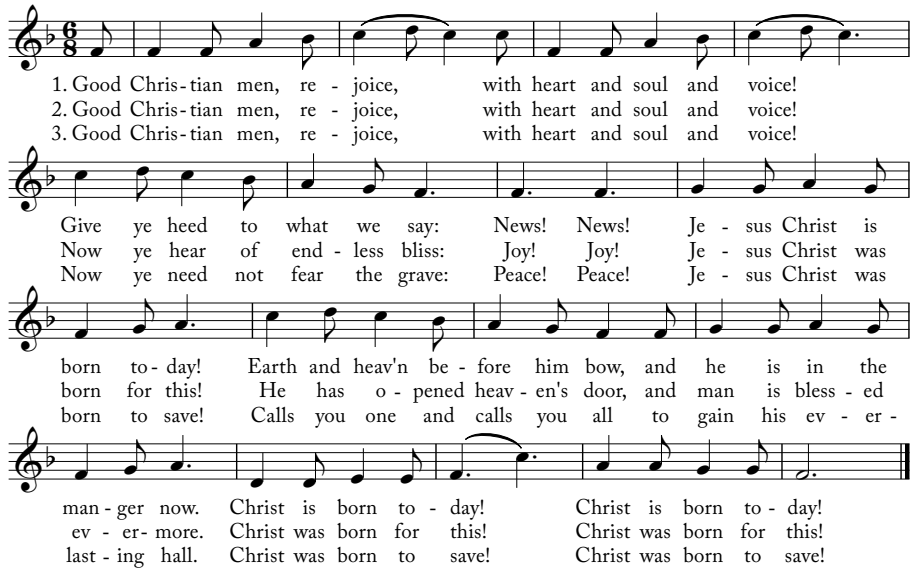
God Declares Our Forgiveness

God responds joyfully to our confession by declaring his forgiveness and the security of his grace and delight in us as his beloved daughters and sons.

We Praise God

Having been assured of God's favor, we offer thanks and praise for salvation from sin and reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ.

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!



1. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice!

2. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice!

3. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice!

Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Je - sus Christ is
 Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Joy! Joy! Je - sus Christ was
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Je - sus Christ was

born to - day! Earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the
 born for this! He has o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed
 born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er -

man - ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 ev - er - more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 last - ing hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th C.; tr. J. M. Neale, 1853
 Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO; 14th C. German melody; Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1535

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all ages, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen.

We Affirm Our
Faith In God
(Nicene Creed)

God Instructs Us In Scripture Reading

God speaks to us
through the Bible to
instruct, encourage,
correct, comfort, and
equip us to know, love,
and follow him.

We respond to God by
affirming our trust in his
word.

God Instructs Us In Preaching

God speaks to us to
explain what his word
means and how to
respond to him with
loving obedience in our
daily lives.

Seated

Isaiah 11:1-9

pew Bible page 575-576

This is God's good news of great joy.
Glory to God in the highest!

Luke 2:10, 14

“Waiting with Peace” – Rev. Charles Godwin

See Amid the Winter's Snow

1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies he who built the star - ry skies.
3. Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was thine,
4. Teach, O teach us, ho - ly child, by thy face so meek and mild,

see, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He, who throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!
teach us to re - sem - ble thee in thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."

Text: Edward Casswall, 1858
Tune: HUMILITY; John Goss, 1871

Standing (if able)

(prayers for the church and the world)

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.

We Offer Ourselves in Gifts and Song

We respond to God's word by offering ourselves to God with renewed love and commitment both in song and in gifts of money to support God's mission in the world.

We Pray For The Church And The World

We respond to God's word by asking him to transform our lives, our communities, and the world through the renewing work of Jesus with the Lord's Prayer as a summary prayer for the mission of God's kingdom.

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come, let earth re - ceive her King.
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em - ploy
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground.
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 He comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found,
 the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love,

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719
 Tune: ANTIOCH; G. F. Händel, 1742, adapt. Lowell Mason

And all God's people said...

Hallelujah! Amen.

Christmas Doxology

The musical score for the Christmas Doxology is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has two staves: the top staff is for the vocal melody, and the bottom staff is for the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Praise the Lord, the com - ing King. All his saints, his glo - ry sing." The second system also has two staves. The top staff continues the vocal melody, and the bottom staff continues the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Praise God all you heav'n - ly host, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex, syncopated pattern in the left hand.

Praise the Lord, the com - ing King. All his saints, his glo - ry sing.

Praise God all you heav'n - ly host, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Text: Anonymous
Tune: GLORIA; Traditional French carol;
arr. E. Barnes, 1937

God Blesses Us And Sends Us Out

God sends us out into
the world with his
blessing to live with him
and serve the mission of
his kingdom.

Joy to the World

M. Dell

Postlude

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mike Farley

Musicians: Matthew Mazzoni (director), *piano and organ*; Susan Crecelius, *vocals*.

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jeanne Miller, and to commemorate their wedding anniversary, by Jack Miller.

Connect, Grow, Serve

At Central, we seek the transformation of our lives, communities, and the world through the renewing work of Jesus Christ, for the glory of God. This vision becomes more and more a reality when we **connect**, **grow**, and **serve**. Below are a few opportunities coming up for you to belong to God's mission and his work at and through Central.

Worship Times for January 4

Merry Christmas! It is a joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus with you this year. We pray that you are encountering the Lord in a powerful way as you worship with us this month! Please note our Sunday worship schedule for the next two weeks:

Sunday, January 4: one service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 11: two services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Prayer and Support

It is a joyful time of year, but it can also be a challenging time of year for those of you who recently lost loved ones or are experiencing difficult life circumstances. If you find yourself in a tough place this Christmas season, please feel free to contact us at care@centralpres.com for prayer and also to get connected with our various care ministries. From Divorce Care to Grief Share, from marriage enrichment to career care, we have a range of different groups that you might find helpful.

Year-End Generosity: December Goal

With just a few days of December remaining, there is still time to join us in our year-end financial goal. It is an important time of year for our ministry, and we are grateful for your partnership! You can partner with us in several ways between now and December 31st:

Make a gift as part of today's offering.

Visit www.centralpres.com/giving to make a gift online, safely and securely.

Text to give by texting CENTRALPRES to 77977.

Stop by the church office Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

Mail a gift through USPS to Central at: 7700 Davis Drive, Clayton MO 63105 (must be post-marked by 12/31)

If you would like more information about these or other upcoming opportunities, please scan the QR code to the right, email us at communications@centralpres.com, or call the church office at 314-727-2777.

CONNECT

GROW

SERVE

