

ORDER OF WORSHIP
February 23, 2025

8:30AM



Discovering the *Beauty*
of the *Kingdom* of God

JOHN 1-11



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Central

Get connected at Central



Sundays at Central

Worshipping as a Family

Accessibility

Welcome Registry

Prayer

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.

Worship: 8:30am & 11:15am

Sunday school: 10:00am-11:00am

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

During both services, nursery care is available for families with children ages 8 weeks through 3 years. The nursery entrance is on the first floor.

A nursing mother's room is located on the first floor off of the Fellowship Hall.

For kids ages 3 through kindergarten, we offer "children's worship" during the sermon. After worshipping with their family during the first part of the service, kids ages 3 through kindergarten will be invited to join our leaders at the front of the sanctuary. After the sermon, the kids return to the sanctuary to meet their parents.

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

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.

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.

Romance sans paroles, Op. 17 No. 3.

G. Fauré

Prelude

Standing (if able)

from Psalm 135:3; 145:15, 18-19

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good!
The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
**The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
Praise the Lord!**

God Calls Us To Worship

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

We Praise God

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

A Mighty Fortress

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing.
2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth.

Our help - er he a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos - ing.
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to tri - umph through us.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and pow'r are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his
The prince of dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may

great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
dure, for lo, his doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell him.
kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still: his king - dom is for - ev - er.

Text: Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederic Hedge, 1852
Tune: EIN FESTE BURG; Martin Luther, 1529

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed,

He died for us that we might live for him.

Seated

from Hebrews 10:19, 21-22; 4:16

Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to the throne of grace with a true heart in full assurance of faith, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Lord, you often permit suffering in our lives that we do not understand. Please forgive us for the times when we see these trials as your punishment or your absence and respond with sinful anger or sinful habits of control or comfort. Forgive us for failing to see our trials as opportunities to trust your power to sustain us with courage and to reveal your power and glory more fully to us and to others.

Lord, we are sorry, and we humbly repent. Have mercy on us.

(silent prayers of confession)

Lord, you call us to help others know you by sharing about your saving work in our lives that gives us strength and hope in Christ. Please forgive us for the times when we have remained silent out of fear rather than speaking clear words of truth in love because we desired our own comfort and the approval of others more than pleasing you and seeking their good.

Lord, we are sorry, and we humbly repent. Have mercy on us.

(silent prayers of confession)

Gracious Father, please forgive us for choosing to disobey because we trust ourselves more than you and think more highly of ourselves than you. Please help us bring our pain and fear to you and help us see you at work in the midst of it. Please show your great power in us and through us by your Holy Spirit so that we may find courage and hope in Christ by following you and bearing witness of the grace of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

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.

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.

Standing (if able)

from Romans 8:33-34

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

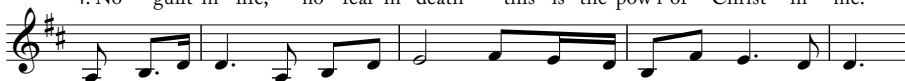
For all who have turned from sin in sorrow and look to God for mercy, this is God's gift. In Jesus Christ, God loves you, God forgives you, God accepts you, and God rejoices over you as beloved daughters and sons.

Hallelujah, Amen!

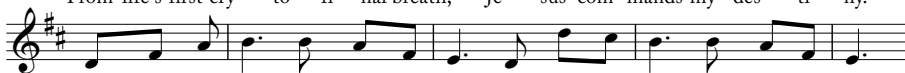
In Christ Alone



1. In Christ a-lone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;
2. In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help-less babe!
3. There in the ground his bo-dy lay, light of the world by dark-ness slain.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death- this is the pow'r of Christ in me.



this cor-ner-stone, this so-lid ground, firm through the fierc-est drought and storm.
This gift of love and right-eous-ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Then burst-ing forth in glor-ious day, up from the grave he rose a-gain!
From life's first cry to fi-nal breath, Je-sus com-mands my des-ti-ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings cease!
Till on that cross as Je-sus died, the wrath of God was sat-is-fied.
And as he stands in vic-to-ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev-er pluck me from his hand;



My com-for-ter, my all in all- here in the love of Christ I stand.
For ev-ry sin on him was laid- here in the death of Christ I live.
For I am his and he is mine- bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.
till he re-turns or calls me home- here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text and tune: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
© 2001 Thankyou Music

Seated

Jubilate, Alleluia!

Chancel Choir
Central Christian School Choir
Directed by Joan Kouba

Jubilate, Alleluia!
Sing and rejoice, O sing and rejoice, all the earth!
Jubilate Deo!

Let us sing praise and let us give thanks,
Jubilate, Alleluia!
Sing hosanna in excelsis! Jubilate Deo.
Sing and rejoice, alleluia!

Jubilate, Alleluia!
Sing and rejoice, O sing and rejoice, all the earth!
Jubilate, Alleluia! Sing and rejoice!
Jubilate, Alleluia!

Words & music by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

*Children ages 3 - kindergarten are invited to Children's Worship
and will return during the offering.*

John 9

pew Bible page 895-896

The grass withers and the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8

“Courage in the Kingdom” – Rev. Dr. Clay Smith

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.

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.

O Church Arise



1. O Church, a-rise and put your ar-mor on; hear the call of Christ our Cap-tain.
2. Our call to war, to love the cap-tive soul, but to rage a-against the cap-tor;
3. Come see the cross, where love and mer-cy meet, as the Son of God is strick-en.
4. So Spir-it come, put strength in ev-'ry stride, give grace for ev-'ry hur-dle,



For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has giv-en.
And with the sword that makes the woun-ded whole, we will fight with faith and val-or.
Then see his foes lie crushed be-neath his feet, for the Con-quer-or has ris-en!
that we may run with faith to win the prize of a ser-vant good and faith-ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a-against the dev-il's lies;
When faced with trials on ev-'ry side, we know the out-come is se-cure,
And as the stone is rolled a-way, and Christ e-mer-ges from the grave,
As saints of old still line the way, re-tell-ing tri-umphs of his grace,



an ar-my bold, whose bat-tle-cry is love, reach-ing out to those in dark-ness.
and Christ will have the prize for which he died, an in-her-i-tance of na-tions.
this vic-tory march con-tin-ues till the day, ev-'ry eye and heart shall see him.
we hear their calls and hun-ger for the day when with Christ we stand in glo-ry.

Text and tune: Stuart Townend, Keith Getty
© 2004 Thankyou Music

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.

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.

Seated

Central welcomes all Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive Holy Communion with us. If you are not ready to receive communion, we invite you to meditate on one of the prayers below.

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of new belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared believe, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Is your child interested in receiving communion for the first time? Please email family@centralpres.com for more information.

Please hold the elements until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together as directed by the pastor. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Therefore, with the whole company of heaven and the whole church on earth, we give you thanks for your great glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(prayer of thanks & words of institution)

Now let us celebrate the feast of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

God Feeds Us at His Table

We celebrate Jesus' triumph over sin, Satan, and death through his death and resurrection by eating and drinking symbols of Jesus' body and blood. The Holy Spirit works through this act to nourish us by the life of Jesus, to unite us with God and with one another in friendship, and to give us a foretaste and promise of Jesus' return to make all things new.

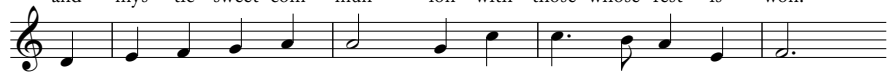
The Church's One Foundation



1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5. For she on earth hath un - ion with God the three in one,



She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schi - sm rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed.
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more,
 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride,
 One ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 till, with the vis - ion glor - ious, her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great Church vic - tor - ious shall be the Church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Text: S. J. Stone, 1866
 Tune: AURELIA; Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

And all God's people said...

Hallelujah! Amen.

Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly hosts; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Ho - ly Ghost. A - men, A - men, A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1709

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH; Louis Bourgeois, *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

Toccata on "In Christ Alone"

L. Visser

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mike Farley

Musicians: Matthew Mazzoni (director), *piano* and *organ*; Young Kim, *piano*.

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.

Postlude

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.

Mia Chung in Concert – This Friday

Our next in event in the Central Concert Series is coming up this Friday evening. As an award-winning concert pianist, educator, writer, and spokesperson for music, Mia Chung has performed extensively on stage, on air, and online, engaging listeners from around the world. It is sure to be an inspirational evening. The concert begins at 7:30pm here in our Sanctuary.

Church-Wide Study

Pastor Clay recently announced that we will be doing a church-wide study on repentance. When we turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus, we find salvation, freedom and transformation. Join us beginning on March 9th for this new 5-week study. There will be several ways for you to participate each week:

- On Sunday mornings at 10am in our Sunday School classes.
- On Sunday afternoons online at 4pm
- By watching a recording of the weekly lesson later in the week.

Holy Week and Easter Volunteers

With spring around the corner (hopefully!), Easter planning is underway. We provide a wide range of ministry during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. It is a great season to serve on one of our volunteer teams as we welcome lots of new people to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. There are a wide range of ways to serve, even in small 1-time ways. Interested? Contact us at info@centralpres.com for more information.

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

