

ORDER OF WORSHIP
April 20, 2025
Easter Sunrise

7:00AM



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 hope to see you again! To learn more about Central or let us know you were here, scan the QR code or visit the Welcome table. We would love to connect with you and answer any questions you might have.

Easter at Central

Services on Central's campus at 9am and 11am.

Worship with us next Sunday

Services at 8:30am & 11:15am

Children are always welcome in our services! We also have nursery care available for children ages 8 weeks through 3 years during both services and we offer Children's Worship during the sermon for kids ages 3 through kindergarten.

Sunday School (all ages): 10am

Prayer

At Central, we believe in the power of prayer. You are invited to submit your prayer requests online at centralpres.com/prayer. You can also email your prayer requests to prayer@centralpres.com.

Easter

During Easter, we focus on celebrating Christ's resurrection from the dead as the foundation of God's victory over sin, suffering, and death. The immortal life of the risen King is the source of salvation that gives us power for enduring life's struggle in the present and historically-grounded hope for life beyond death in God's eternal kingdom when heaven and earth become one and he makes all things new.

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia
Chancel Choir

Tanzanian traditional

Introit

Standing (if able)

from Revelation 5:5; 19:6

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who is the resurrection and the firstborn from the dead.
Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah,
the Root of David, has conquered,
and the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
Hallelujah! Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed!
He died for us that we might live for him.
Hallelujah!

**God Calls Us To
Worship**

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

**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.

Luke 24:1-9

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

The resurrection of the Christ. He is risen!
He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

**The Resurrection
of the Christ**

We Praise God

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

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,
Sons of men and an - gels say, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Dy - ing once He all doth save,
Death in vain for - bids Him rise,
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise,

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739
Tune: EASTER HYMN from *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

The Appearance of the Christ

Luke 24:36-43

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

The appearance of the Christ. He is risen!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

I Know That My Redeemer Lives



1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives!
2. He lives to si - lence all my fears. He lives to wipe a - way my tears.



He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ev - er liv - ing Head. (to verse 2)
He lives to calm my trou - bled heart. He lives all bless - ings to im - part. (to chorus)

Chorus



To our King be high - est praise ris - ing through e - ter - nal



days. Just and faith - ful he shall reign: Je - sus shall reign!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1725

Tune: DUKE STREET; John W. Hatton, 1793

Chorus words & music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash

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Seated

John 20:19-23

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

The mission of the Christ. He is risen!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

We Praise God

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

The Mission of the Christ

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.

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.

from John 11:25; James 4:8, 10

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in him, though he die, yet shall he live. Therefore, draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Eternal Father, you have raised Jesus from the dead
and crowned him the Lord of life.

But we confess that we often live as if Jesus were dead.

**In trials we doubt that you will sustain us,
and so we lose touch with the joy and power
of Jesus' resurrection life in us,
giving us strength to endure today
and bright hope in the weight of glory to come.**

**We are prone to seek our purpose and hope
in our work, our wealth, and our strength.**

**And we forget that you have made us for so much more,
for eternal glory with you in a world made new
by Jesus' resurrection life and healing power.**

Lord, have mercy on us.

(silent prayers of confession)

Living Lord, open our eyes to the light of your life and truth. Open our hearts to trust in your conquering love and life that lasts eternally. Fix our eyes and our hope firmly on Jesus, who has swallowed up death's sting, and lives that death may die. Amen.

Standing (if able)

from 2 Timothy 1:9-10

God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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!

We Greet One Another with the Grace of Christ

The Revelation of the Christ

Luke 24:44-48

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

The revelation of the Christ. He is risen!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

He Has Come to Reign

Chorus:



He has come to reign in our bro-ken hearts, we will doubt and fear no more.

He has come to reign in our bro-ken hearts, all we lost He will re-store.

The true and liv-ing God we serve, His truth will stand, the on-ly word.

He has come to reign, God's on-ly Son; Je-sus Christ, our King, he has o-ver-come. (to chorus)

Text and tune: Sherdonna Denholm
© 2010 Sherdonna Denholm

Seated

Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*

Chancel Choir

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ,

And he shall reign forever and ever, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Rev. 19:6; 11:15; 19:16; Music by G. F. Händel

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.

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.

"Jesus Changes Everything" – Rev. Cole Lescher

Give electronically at centralpres.com/giving, or by texting CENTRALPRES to 77977

Living Hope



1. How great the cha - sm that lay be - tween us. How high the moun - tain
 2. Who could im - ag - ine so great a mer - cy? What heart could fath - om
 3. Then came the morn - ing that sealed the prom - ise, your bur - ied bod - y

I could not climb. In des - per - a - tion I turned to heav - en
 such bound - less grace? The God of ag - es stepped down from glo - ry
 be - gan to breathe. Out of the si - lence, the Roar - ing Li - on

and spoke your name in - to the night. Then through the
 to wear my sin and bear my shame. The cross has
 de - clared the grave has no claim on me. (repeat vs. 3)
 Je - sus, yours is the vic - to - ry! (chorus)

dark - ness your lov - ing - kind - ness tore through the shad - ows of my soul.
 spo - ken; I am for - giv - en. The King of Kings calls me his own.

The work is fin - ished, the end is writ - ten. Je - sus Christ, my liv - ing hope. (verse 2)
 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, I'm yours for - ev - er. Je - sus Christ, my liv - ing hope.

Chorus
 Hal - le - lu - jah, praise the One who set me free! Hal - le - lu - jah, death has
 lost its grip on me! You have bro - ken ev - 'ry chain. There's sal -
 va - tion in Your name. Je - sus Christ, my liv - ing hope. (repeat chorus)

Text and tune: Phil Wickham & Brian Johnson
 © 2017 Phil Wickham Music

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. The communion bread is gluten-free.

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.

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.

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 and words of institution)

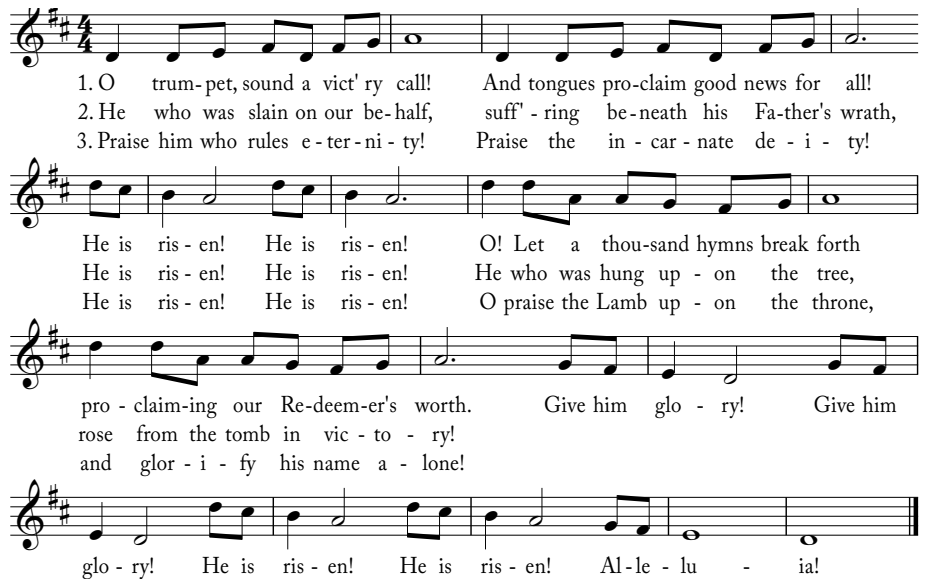
Now let us celebrate the feast of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Standing (if able)

We Praise God

He Is Risen



1. O trum-pet, sound a vict'ry call! And tongues pro-claim good news for all!
2. He who was slain on our be-half, suff'ring be-neath his Fa-ther's wrath,
3. Praise him who rules e-ter-ni-ty! Praise the in-car-nate de-i-ty!

He is ris-en! He is ris-en! O! Let a thou-sand hymns break forth
He is ris-en! He is ris-en! He who was hung up-on the tree,
He is ris-en! He is ris-en! O praise the Lamb up-on the throne,

pro-claim-ing our Re-deem-er's worth. Give him glo-ry! Give him
rose from the tomb in vic-to-ry!
and glor-i-fy his name a-lone!

glo-ry! He is ris-en! He is ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Eric Schumacher, 2004

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN; *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1623

And all God's people said...
Hallelujah! Amen.

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.

Easter Doxology

O! Let the na-tions sing the fame of Christ the Lamb who once was slain!
He is ris-en! He is ris-en! Now we a-wait the com-ing day
when all those raised in Christ will say, "Give him glo-ry! Give him
glo-ry! He is ris-en! He is ris-en! Al-le-lu-ia!"

Text: Eric Schumacher, 2004

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN; *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1623

We Praise God

Liturgist: Rev. Taylor Bruce

Musicians: Matthew Mazzoni (director), *keyboard*; Carl Sasse, *guitar, vocals*;
Romondo Davis, *bass*; Pete Johnson, *percussion, vocals*; Bridget Boyle, *keyboard*;
Hannah Baartman, *vocals*.

Readers: Allie Spors, Zion Holmes, Clara Snyder, James Law

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.

Find Community Here

Welcome to Central! We are so thankful that you have joined us for Easter, and we pray that it has been an encouraging experience for you. If you are visiting for the first time today, or for the first time in a while, we hope you will consider connecting with us again in the days ahead. Life can be hard, but it can be easier – and even joyful – when you are part of a church community. We have a wide range of ways to connect here, no matter your age or stage of life. Please send us a note at info@centralpres.com and we can help you find a place that is a good fit for you!

Is It Really True?

As we celebrate the historical account of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, perhaps you are here today and wondering, "Is it really true?" If that is you, or if you know someone who is wrestling with questions like that, we have a special class starting this Wednesday evening where hard questions are welcomed and encouraged. Join us here at Central for a free dinner at 5 pm, followed by a casual conversation at 6 pm where you can ask questions, share concerns, and seek to find the truth. Feel free to reach out to info@centralpres.com for more information.

Student Fellowship

Are you a middle school or high school student? Growing up is so much fun, but can also be challenging. You are not alone! At Central, we have a Student Ministry that helps people just like you to connect with other students and to learn together about this amazing God who loves us so much. Life is better together, especially with other students who share your faith! Come check us out on Wednesday night. Free dinner at 5 pm, followed by our Student Ministry activities at 6 pm. Feel free to reach out to 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 info@centralpres.com, or call the church office at 314-727-2777.





QUESTIONING FAITH

Join us midweek for
Community Night on
Wednesdays with
5pm dinner and **6pm**
classes for all ages.

Linger after dinner for three
weeks of our **Questioning Faith**
Forum, a place for hard questions and
honest discussions about the Christian faith.
For details, visit centralpres.com/easter.

Mark your calendars for
our **All Church Picnic**!

We'll provide the hotdogs,
hamburgers, and fixings —
you bring seating, drinks, and
something to share. Enjoy fun
and fellowship on **Sunday,**
5/18 in **Shaw Park**! Visit
centralpres.com/easter for
side dish assignments.



SUNDAY, MAY 18

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

AFTER 2ND SERVICE
AT SHAW PARK

H A L L E L U J A H

EASTER CHANGES EVERYTHING



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter is just the
beginning—God
it still at work
and you have a
place in his
story. At Central,
you'll find
renewal, growth,
and community
through worship,
Bible studies,
and groups for
every age. Come
grow with us!

Join us on Sundays
for worship at
8:30am or 11:15am
with 10am Sunday
School for all ages
in between.

Scan the QR code
for details.



David's life was a journey of faith—
full of triumphs, failures, and the
relentless grace of God. Through
every high and low, the gospel
strengthened David's faith, carried
him through sin and suffering, and
held him firmly to the end. The same
Jesus David looked forward to is our
living hope today!

Join us starting next Sunday, April
27, as we explore the Gospel
According to David to see how his
story points us to the sustaining
power of the gospel.

