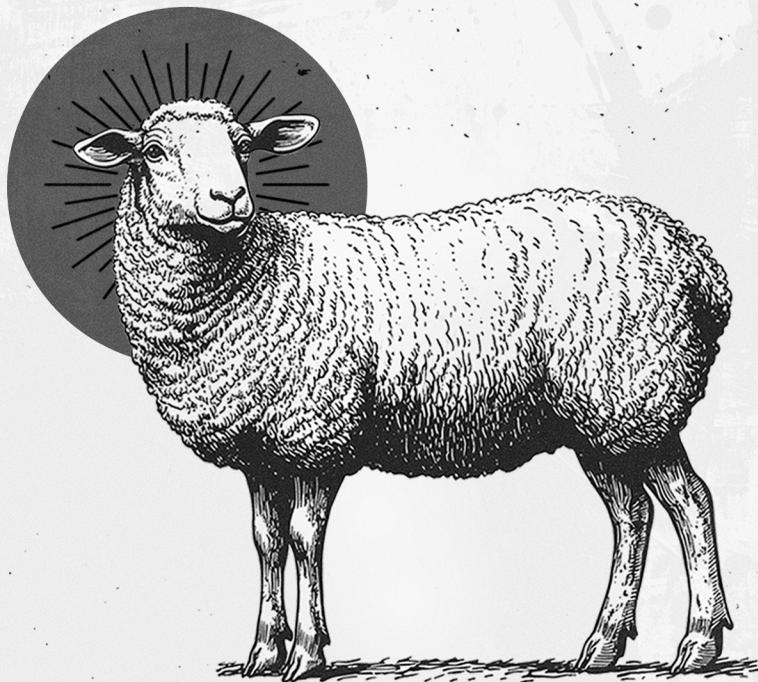


ORDER OF WORSHIP
February 22, 2026
1st Sunday in Lent

11:15AM



FOLLOWING THE KING

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Central

Get connected at Central



Sundays at Central

Worshipping as a Family

Accessibility

Welcome Registry

Prayer

Lent

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.

The colors at the front of the church are purple to mark the season of Lent. During Lent we focus on Christ's suffering as he sacrificed himself to serve a fallen world even to the point of death on a cross. We also lament the brokenness of ourselves and our world, and we renew our commitment to follow Jesus on the path of suffering service for the sake of God's kingdom that he first walked on our behalf as the Suffering Servant-King.

Songs of worship are used with permission. CCLI #100150

He's Got the Whole World In His Hands

Jennifer Mazzoni, flute

Arr. M. Hogan

Prelude

Standing (if able)

from John 1:29; Luke 1:72-73, 77, 79

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Suffering Servant,
the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
who remembers his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

God Calls Us To Worship

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

O Worship the King



1. O wor-ship the King, all glo-rious a - bove, and grate-ful - ly sing
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light,
3. Thy boun-ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the air,
4. Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee-ble as frail, in thee we do trust,
5. O meas-ure-less might, un-change-a - ble love, whom an-gels de - light



his won - der - ful love, our Shield and De - fen - der, the An - cient of
whose can - o - py space! His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds
it shines in the light, it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the
nor find thee to fail: thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the
to wor - ship a - bove! Your ran - somed cre - a - tion, with glo - ry a -



Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
form, and dark is his path on the wings of a storm.
plain, and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
end, our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.
blaze, in true ad - or - a - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1833

Tune: LYONS; attr. J. Michael Haydn, 1770

We Praise God

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

**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.

Christ humbled himself to give his life for us.

Therefore God has highly exalted him!

Seated

from Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**Our Father in heaven,
we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have heard your word but not put it into practice.
We have learned the truth but not obeyed it.
And we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have condemned others harshly without mercy
but ignored or excused our own sins.
We have quickly turned away from others
when the demands of love were hard and inconvenient.
Lord, we are sorry, and we humbly repent. Have mercy on us.**

(silent prayers of confession)

Gracious Father, make us doers and not merely hearers of your word. By the transforming power of your Holy Spirit, drive far from us all wrong desires and incline our hearts to keep your word by your grace to us in Christ. Give us strength to love others as you have loved us by overcoming evil with good and offering radical mercy to others as we have received mercy from you. Amen.

Standing (if able)

from 1 John 4:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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!

Before the Throne of God Above

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect plea,
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with - in,
3. Be - hold him there the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less right - cous - ness,
a great high priest whose name is Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me.
up - ward I look and see him there, who made an end of all my sin.
the great un - change - a - ble I Am, the King of glo - ry and of grace.
My name is grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his heart.
Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count ed free,
One with him - self I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his blood.
I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can bid me thence de -
for God the just is sa - tis - fied to look on him and par - don
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my
part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
me, to look on him and par - don me.
God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

Text and tune: Charitie Lees Bancroft, 1863; Vikki Cook, 1997
© 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship

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.

Seated

For the Beauty of the Earth

Chancel Choir

Central Children's Choir (Whitney Cairns, director)

CCS Choir (Joan Kouba, director)

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

Text: F. S. Pierpoint; Music: John Rutter

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

Luke 6:12-36

pew Bible page 862-863

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.

The Lord teaches the humble his way.

Psalm 25:9; 119:81

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

My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.

“The Unexpected Kingdom” – Rev. Dr. Clay Smith

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.

Christian Hearts in Love United



1. Christ - ian hearts, in love u - ni - ted: search to know God's ho - ly will.
2. Grant, Lord, that with your di - rec - tion, "Love each oth - er," we com - ply.
3. Come, then, liv - ing church of Je - sus, cov - e - nant with him a - new.



Let His love, in us ig - nit - ed, more and more our spir - its fill.
Help us live in true af - fec - tion, Your love to ex - em - pli - fy.
Un - to him who con - quered for us may we pledge our ser - vice true.



Christ the Head and we His mem - bers, we re - flect the light He is.
Let our mut - ual love be glow - ing bright - ly so that all may view
May our lives re - flect the bright - ness of God's love in Je - sus shown.



Christ the Mas - ter, we di - sci - ples, He is ours and we are His.
that we, as on one stem grow - ing, liv - ing branch - es are in you.
to the world we then bear wit - ness: we be - long to God a - lone.

Text: Nicolaus von Zinzendorf, 1723; tr. Frederick W. Foster
Tune: BEACH SPRING; attr. B. F. White, 1844

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.

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.

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!

We Praise God

Behold the Lamb



1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us -
2. The bod - y of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, torn for you -
3. The blood that cleans - es ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for you -
4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re - spond -

and we re - mem - ber the pro - mise made that all who come in faith find for -
eat and re - mem - ber; the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the
drink and re - mem - ber he drained death's cup that all may en - ter in to re -
and to re - mem - ber our call to fol - low in the steps of Christ as his

give - ness at the cross. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his
price to make us one. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his
ceive the life of God. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his
bod - y here on earth. So we share in his suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim Christ will

sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of peace a - round the ta - ble of the King.
sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of love a - round the ta - ble of the King.
sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of grace a - round the ta - ble of the King.
come a - gain! And we'll join in the feast of heav'n a - round the ta - ble of the King.

Text and tune: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend
© 2006 Thankyou Music

Standing (if able)

And all God's people said...

Hallelujah! Amen.

Lenten Doxology – This Is My Father's World

This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ru - ler yet.
This is my Fa - ther's world: the bat - tle is not done.
Je - sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heav'n be one.

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901
Tune: TERRA BEATA; Franklin L. Sheppard

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.

Toccata in Seven

J. Rutter

Postlude

Liturgist: Rev. Cole Lescher

Musicians: Matthew Mazzone (director), *piano, organ, vocals*; Carl Sasse, *guitar, vocals*; Romondo Davis, *bass*; Christine Sasse, *violin*; Pete Johnson, *percussion, vocals*; Jill Clayton, *vocals*.

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.

Connect at Community Night

Our weekly "Community Night" on Wednesdays is a great way connect with others and to grow your faith. Dinner (free!) is at 5 p.m. followed by a range of Bible studies and class opportunities for all ages. You can find additional information by visiting www.centralpres.com/spring.

Grow as a Parent

Calling all parents: we invite you to join us for a two-day parenting conference on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28. Parenting is a great joy but not always easy. This conference will equip you to grow in your understanding, compassion, and skills for relating with your children (and/or grandchildren!). Questions? Feel free to contact us at info@centralpres.com or scan the QR for more details.



Holy Week and Easter Volunteers

Easter is on Sunday, April 5 this year and planning for our various services and events is underway. There are a wide range of ways to be part of one of our volunteer teams, even in small one-time ways. Your help and presence can make a big difference in how visitors experience our church at this special time of year. Interested? Contact us at info@centralpres.com for more information.

CONNECT

GROW

SERVE

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.

