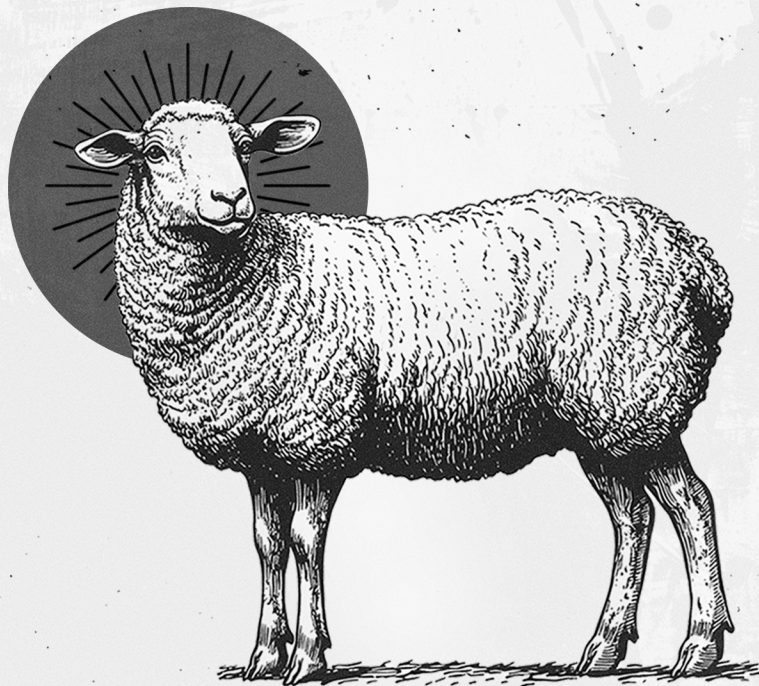


**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
March 8, 2026  
3rd Sunday in Lent

**8:30AM**



# **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](http://centralpres.com/prayer). You can also email your prayer requests to [prayer@centralpres.com](mailto: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

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.

## Rejoice! The Lord is King

1. Re - joice! The Lord is King, your Lord and King a - dore.  
 2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love,  
 3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n.  
 4. He sits at God's right hand 'till all his foes sub - mit,  
 5. Re - joice in glor - ious hope! Je - sus the judge shall come,

Re - joice, give thanks and sing and tri - umph ev - er more.  
 when he had purged our stains he took his seat a - bove.  
 The keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n.  
 and bow to his com - mand, and fall be - neath his feet.  
 and take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

## 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 Hebrews 2:17; 7:25

Christ was made like us in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Our Good Shepherd and King,  
you have called us to follow you faithfully wherever you lead us.

**But we are prone to listen to the devil's lies,  
and we join the devil's work in sin.**

**So our faith often withers when we face testing and trouble,  
and we turn away from your comfort and your commands.**

**We are choked by the riches and pleasures of life  
and by the cares and worries of this world.**

**Even when we receive your word,  
we often do not allow it to take root  
and bear lasting fruit in persevering obedience  
because we do not trust your power to provide for us.**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

(silent prayers of confession)

Our trustworthy Father, lead our faltering, anxious hearts to find our rest and refuge in you. By the power of your Spirit, fix our eyes firmly on Jesus, so that we will run to you with every question, fear, and doubt. In the midst of every trouble and storm, root us deeply in Christ and help us stand firm as you renew us again and again with steadfast assurance of your infinite greatness and goodness and the certain hope of your salvation. Amen.

*Standing (if able)*

from Romans 8:31-32; 2 Peter 1:3

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? God's divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

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.

## The Solid Rock

1. My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and right-eous-ness.  
2. When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace.  
3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the whelm-ing flood.  
4. When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in him be found,

I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
In ev - ry high and storm-y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
When all a - round my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines.

Text: Edward Mote, 1834  
Tune: SOLID ROCK; William B. Bradbury, 1863

## Seated

### He That Shall Endure to the End from *Elijah*, Op. 70

Chancel Choir

He that shall endure to the end shall be saved.

Text: Matthew 24:13; Music: Felix Mendelssohn

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

**Luke 8:4-15**

pew Bible page 865

### **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

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

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

**“Hearing and Growing” – 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.

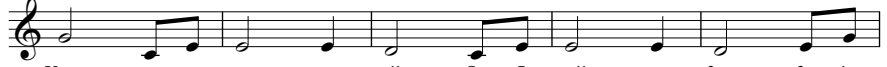
## We Offer Ourselves in Gifts and Song

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.

### Ancient of Days



1. Though the na - tions rage, king - doms rise and fall, there is still one  
2. Though the dread of night o - verwhelms my soul, he is there with  
3. Though I may not see what the fu - ture brings, I will watch and



King reign - ing ov - er all. So I will not fear for this  
me - I am not a - lone. Oh, his love is sure, and he  
wait for the Sav - ior King. Then, my joy com - plete, stand - ing



truth re - mains: That my God is the An - cient of Days.  
knows my name, for my God is the An - cient of Days.  
face to face in the pres - ence of the An - cient of Days.

#### Chorus



None a - bove him, none be - fore him; all of time in his hands. For his



throne, it shall re - main and ev - er stand. All the pow - er, all the



glo - ry, I will trust in his name, for my God is the An - cient of Days.

Text and tune: J. Robinson, R. Thompson, M. Farren, J. Reeves  
© 2018 City Alight 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](mailto: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.

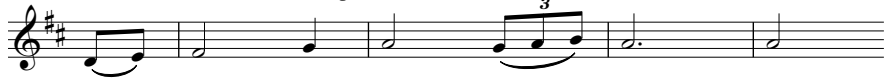
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!**

## We Praise God

### Psalm 23 (The King of Love)



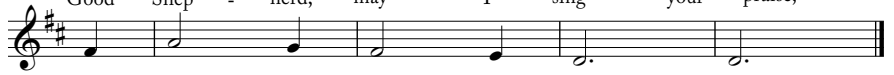
1. The King of Love my Shep - herd is,  
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow,  
 3. Con - fused and fool - ish, oft I strayed,  
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
 5. You spread a ta - ble in my sight;  
 6. And so through all the length of days,



whose good - ness fails me nev - er.  
 my Sav - ior gent - ly leads me,  
 but yet in love you sought me;  
 with you, dear Lord, be - side me;  
 your gifts of grace be - stow - ing;  
 your good - ness fails me nev - er;



I want for noth - ing! I am his,  
 and where the ver - dant pas - tures grow,  
 and on your shoul - der gent - ly laid,  
 your rod and staff my com - fort still,  
 with pro - mise of a - bun - dant life  
 Good Shep - herd, may I sing your praise,



and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 with food from heav - en feeds me.  
 and home, re - joic - ing brought me.  
 your cross be - fore to guide me.  
 my cup is ov - er - flow - ing  
 with - in your house for - ev - er.

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.

### Rigadoun

A. Campra

### Postlude

Liturgist: Rev. Taylor Bruce

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

*The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Neal David Nielsen by Neal & Mary Nielsen.*

# 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.

## Central School Trivia Night

Join our school community at its upcoming Trivia Night & Silent Auction on Saturday, March 28. It will be a fun night and all proceeds will go to support our school. Reserve your table today! Registration link and more information available by emailing us at [info@centralpres.com](mailto:info@centralpres.com).

## New Class Starting Today - 10 am

Today in Fellowship Hall, we begin a special 3-week Sunday School class on the topic of evangelism - sharing the saving message of Jesus Christ with others. Come join us at 10 am downstairs in Fellowship Hall and be inspired and equipped to connect with people in your life who need to know the Lord Jesus.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:communications@centralpres.com), or call the church office at 314-727-2777.

