



**Central Presbyterian Church**  
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
(870) 879-9074



Sunday, December 13, 2015  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP**

**CHORAL PRELUDE**                      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*                      Helmore

**LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**                      The Mosley Family

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                      from Isaiah 12: 2 - 6

Lawrence: "Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!"

**People:** "The LORD has taken away the judgments against you! God has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more."

Lawrence: "On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, God will rejoice over you with gladness, God will renew you in his love; God will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.'"

**People:** "'I will remove disaster from you. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise, and renown in all the earth.'"

**All:** "Let us all rejoice with shouts of joy and singing!"

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #143** *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

**FILLING OF THE BAPTISMAL FONT**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

"Open our eyes, Lord. Sometimes they are half-shut because we are tired of looking, and sometimes they are half-open because we see so much that is painful. Give us a bigger vision of what you can do. Open our eyes, Lord, so we may see what you can do with hopeless causes and limited ability. Open our eyes, Lord." (Silent Prayer) "In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

**KYRIE ELEISON** ("Lord, Have Mercy")

*Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Lawrence: "The mercy of The Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven."

**People:** "Thanks be to God. Amen!"

**\*GLORIA PATRI** ("Glory be to the Father") *Hymnal #581*

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**ANTHEM**                      *A Star Will Soon Shine*                      Besig

**TIME WITH OUR YOUNG ONES**

*Preschool-aged children may go to the nursery after the children's message. Children of kindergarten age and above may remain in worship.*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**                      Zephaniah 3:14 - 20

**EPISTLE READING**                      Philippians 4:4 - 7

**GOSPEL READING**                      Luke 3:7 - 18

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**                      David S. King

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**                      from *A Brief Statement of Faith*                      see insert

**\*HYMN #133**                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* French Carol

**\*DOXOLOGY** ("Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow") *Hymnal #607*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS** (You are each encouraged to name those whom you love and for whom you pray.)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER** (We use the wording “debts and debtors.”)

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #113** *Angels, We Have Heard on High*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE\*\*** *We Three Kings* Brickman

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

*Go forth into the world rejoicing. Love and serve the Lord.*

**\* Those who are able, please stand.**

**\*\* Please be seated and remain for the postlude if you can.**

**Ushers: The Mosley Family** **Lay Reader: Lawrence Fikes**



Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church where we come together **to celebrate God’s love, nurture growth, share our faith and serve the needs of others.** This Congregation opens wide its doors and our hearts and offers welcome to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Transitional Pastor**  
David S. King

**Secretary**  
Erin Shaw

**ChoirMaster/Organist**  
Marty Shell

**Nursery Attendant**

**Youth Sponsor**  
Marty Shell

**Website:**  
[www.centralprespb.com](http://www.centralprespb.com)

**The Session**  
**Class of 2015**  
Marty Shell  
Betty Coles  
Amanda Chandler  
Laura Pierce (clerk)

**Class of 2016**  
Nelson Buchanan  
  
Tommy Dunlap  
Jemmie Moseley

**Standing Committee Moderators**

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Betty Coles     | Budget & Finance     |
| Amanda Chandler |                      |
| Nelson Buchanan | Building & Grounds   |
| Laura Pierce    |                      |
| Amanda Chandler | Education            |
| Tommy Dunlap    | Fellowship & Nurture |
| Bill Detmers    | Missions & Outreach  |
| Jemmie Moseley  |                      |
| Marty Shell     | Worship & Music      |

**Pastor Nominating Committee**

Kay Cromwell  
Lawrence Fikes  
Mike Kelley  
Denise Mosley  
Marty Shell (chair)

*Announcements*

**Today is the Deadline to Order Christmas Poinsettias.** To place an order, please fill out a form (located on the round table in the Narthex), and return it to the church office by the end of the day. The cost is \$12.50.

**The Evening Circle Will Meet** Monday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m., in the Perdue Library.

**The Men of the Church Will Meet** Saturday, December 19, at 8 a.m. Location to be announced.

**The Combined Choirs of First and Central Will Present** *Let There Be Christmas*, a Christmas Canata by Joseph Martin Sunday, December 20, during morning worship.

**The Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Will Be Held** Sunday, December 20, following our Christmas Cantata. All are invited to join in this time of fellowship.

**The Session Will Meet** Sunday, December 20, in the conference room, following the Fellowship Luncheon.

**The Deadline for the January Issue of Central Scene** is **Monday, December 21.** Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.

**Our Annual Christmas Eve Service Will Be Held** Thursday, December 24, at **5:30 p.m.** Come and sing with us as we celebrate together!

## **Lectinary Readings for Sunday, December 13- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing

as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.

**A Star Will Soon Shine**

Watch and wait, O people of God;  
This is no time for doubt and fear.  
Let your faith be steadfast and strong.  
Soon a sign will appear.

A star will soon shine O'er Bethlehem town.  
The prophets have said a child will come down  
From heaven above to bring God's love.  
Let us prepare for the King.

A star will soon shine alone in the night.  
The sky will be filled with glorious light,  
And a song will be heard through all the world.  
Let us prepare for the King.

Watch and wait, O people of hope,  
Love will come down from heaven on high.  
Trust your faith. Be patient and know  
God will send you a sign.

A star will soon shine to show us the way.  
The darkness we've known will soon be replaced  
By the light of God's Son, the Promised One.  
Let us prepare for the King.

**CENTRAL PRAYER CONCERNS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2015**

*MEMBERS:*

**Emil Brown**  
**Valerie Reichen**  
**Bernice and Gene Lackey**  
**Mary Wooten**  
**Donna McCaleb**

**Mildred Gaunt**  
**Hester Insley**  
**Mary Kientz**  
**Bea Magee**

*FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:*

**The family of Cherish Albright**, acquaintance of  
Brianna Vick  
**Judy Buchanan**, wife of Nelson Buchanan  
**Audrey Brooks**, mother-in-law of Nelson  
Buchanan  
**The family of Skylar Pickle**, friend of Brianna  
Rodriguez  
**Steven Lee**, uncle of Amber Poss  
**Mary Ward**, mother of Dana Neal  
**Cathy Risinger**, sister of Kay Cromwell  
**Betty Seymore**, aunt of Pat Drewett  
**Scott Howell**, son of friend of Jemmie Moseley and  
Lynda Vick  
**Scott McGeorge**, friend of Laurence Fikes  
**Jay Johnson**, friend of Amanda Chandler  
**Jerry Conley**, friend of the Shell family  
**Dorothy Soto**, friend of Lynda Vick  
**Kevin Rushing**, friend of Laura Pierce  
**Doris McCoy**, mother of Kay Cromwell  
**Randy Shell**, brother of Marty Shell  
**Lois Tucker**, neighborhood friend of the Mosley  
family

**Georgiana Burnside**, daughter of Amanda  
Chandler's co-worker  
**Jennifer Place**, friend of Laura & Zac Cosner  
**Rhett Lunningham**, nephew of David Judkins  
**Pam Panks**, mother of Bubba VonTungeln's friend  
**Rev. Jim Miller**, friend of the church  
**Perry Reynolds**, friend of the Jane & David  
Judkins  
**Lori Partridge**, friend of Rose VonTungeln  
**Annette Knuckles**, co-worker of Tommy Dunlap  
**Joshua Chambliss and family**, nephew of Rose  
and Suzy VonTungeln  
**Juliet Walker**, sister of Bubba VonTungeln's co-  
worker  
**Ryker Cheek**, nephew of Bubba VonTungeln  
**Mary McBee**, friend of Karen & David Perdue  
**Wanda Vining**, mother-in-law of Pat Drewett  
**Helen Gaunt**, sister-in-law of Mildred Gaunt  
**Joe Ward**, uncle of Dana Neal  
**Dan Loomis**, former pastor  
**John Hensley**, friend of Laura and Rick Pierce  
**Franklin Ward**, uncle of Dana Neal  
**Cissy Bailey**, sister-in-law of Betty Coles

*PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:*

**Laotian Ministry**, Fort Smith                      **First**, Stuttgart

*OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD*

**Help us keep our Prayer list up-to-date. If you have family or friends who need to be added or removed from the Prayer Concerns list, please let Erin know.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**  
*from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**Notes on Today's Affirmation of Faith:**  
*from A Brief Statement of Faith*

Presbyterians are a "Confessing Church." We have adopted historic statements of faith such as "The Apostles Creed" and created others as a way of telling the world and reminding ourselves who we are, what we believe, and how we intend to live because of that. They do not take the place of the Bible and are intended to help us focus on the essentials of our faith made clear in the Bible. The Presbyterian Book of Confessions includes fourteen statements of faith, including familiar ones like "The Apostles Creed" and the "Longer" and "Shorter Catechisms."

When the two largest Presbyterian bodies in the country planned to merge in 1983, they decided to create a new statement of the faith they shared that could be used in worship. "It does not pretend to be a complete list of our beliefs, nor does it explain any of them in detail." It is intended to show that despite our diversity there is much about our faith which holds us together.