



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sunday, October 1, 2023
World Communion Sunday

GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Lamentations 3, Psalm 137)

Jessica: Sing to the Lord, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting!

People: But how can we sing the Lord's song when so many are without?

Jessica: Sing to the Lord, whose faithfulness renews us every morning!

People: But how can we sing the Lord's song when so many are gone?

Jessica: Sing to the Lord, who has not forgotten the melodies of salvation!

People: Let us remember the joy of the Lord, and sing a new song together!

***OPENING HYMN # 340 This Is My Song**

1 this is my song, oh God of all the nations, what song of peace four lands afar end mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine, but other hearts in other lands are beating with the hops and dreams as true and high as mine.

2 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too, and clover and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. So hear my song, oh God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3 This is my prayer, oh Lord of all earth's kingdoms, Thy Kingdom comes, on earth Thy will be done. Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one. So hear my prayer, Oh God up all the nations: myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Great indeed is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and falsehood. Let's try to come back together again, and let's start with the truth. Let's confess our sins, to God, and also, to each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, father of mercy and grace: You have called us to one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all creation, but in our greed, and in our envy, the world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty. And now we are famished, too, Lord. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again. Transform us, at this table, and for this table, and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness, by the power of your Son, our Lord. (Silent Prayer) Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON: "Lord, Have Mercy"

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen!

***GLORIA PATRI**

Hymnal #581

"Glory Be to the Father"

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

ANTHEM

Under His Wings

Ira D. Sankey

**Under His wings I am safely abiding;
Though the night deepens and tempests are wild,
Still I can trust Him—I know He will keep me;
He has redeemed me and I am His child.**

**Refrain: Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever?
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.**

**Under His wings, what a refuge in sorrow!
How the heart yearningly turns to His rest!
Often when earth has no balm for my healing,
There I find comfort, and there I am blessed.**

**Under His wings, oh, what precious enjoyment!
There will I hide till life's trials are o'er;
Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me,
Resting in Jesus, I'm safe evermore.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rose VonTungeln

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Laura Cosner

Matthew 5:1–5 (ESV)

**5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

Matthew 26:36–39 (ESV)

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” 37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Blessed are the Meek

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN # 508 Come to the Table**

1 Come to the table, all you who praise God. Laid in a stable, God's gifts of love: Jesus our savior poured out his life's blood. Our sin forgiven, God's gift of love.

2. Come eat this bread now, my broken body. My vow remember: I am your lord. Drink of this wine, the cup of salvation, for you are mine, and I am your Lord.

3. All is now ready, like the first table. Pray for the spirit; lift up your heart. Christ has arisen, our Lord and savior. With thanksgiving, lift of hearts.

***Affirmation of Faith (adapted from the Belhar Confession)**

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family. And we believe that that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another, that we are share one baptism together, that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

THE LORD'S TABLE

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Breaking of the Bread

Prayer after Communion

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***CLOSING HYMN # 765 May the God of Hope Go with Us**

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

****POSTLUDE**

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.***

PRAYER CONCERNS

*Munn Family
Jemmie Moseley
Karen Perdue
Lan Kelly*

*Hester Insley
Emil & Carol Brown
Laura Hayes
Denise Mosley*

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

<u>Name</u>		<u>Name</u>	
<i>Max Zeng</i>	<i>Mike and Lan Kelly's son</i>	<i>Rebecca & Earl Phillips</i>	<i>Friends of Karen Perdue</i>
<i>Luis Sanchez</i>	<i>Father of Lizabeth Sanchez</i>	<i>Dr. Laura Festa</i>	<i>Wife of Dan Festa</i>
<i>Bernice Collins</i>	<i>Friend of the Church</i>	<i>Haley Chandler</i>	<i>Friend of the Church</i>
<i>Pat Mosley</i>	<i>Mother of George Mosley</i>	<i>Allie Cooper & Carol Taylor</i>	<i>Friends of Denise Mosley</i>

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:

Cane Hill Church, Cane Hill

*Active and Retired Christian Educators
and Youth Directors*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR 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 the Office know.

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 hearts and welcomes all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Announcements

Pastor Rev. Jai D. Kwak	Pianist/Organist Young Ju Oh
Treasurer Rose VonTungeln	Sound Board Operator Zac Cosner

Today marks World Communion Sunday, a special worship observed on the first Sunday of October, when numerous Christian congregations worldwide come together to celebrate the spirit of unity that transcends denominational boundaries.

Email: Office@centralprespb.com
Phone: 870-879-9074
Website: <http://www.centralprespb.com>
Website Password: Trinity9074

We will be collecting a special offering of Peace & Global Witness today. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. A portion of this offering is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.



Fall Festival (Trunk or Treat) this year will be an indoor event on Saturday October 28th in the fellowship hall @ 5pm If you would like to donate wrapped candy for the event please let Laura Cosner know.

Session

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Laura Cosner	George Mosley (Clerk)
Jane Judkins	Zac Cosner
Denise Mosley	Pat Drewett
Suzy VonTungeln	

Standing Committee Moderators:

George Mosley - Building & Ground
 Zac Cosner - Budget & Finance
 Suzy VonTungeln - Fellowship & Education
 Denise Mosley - Missions & Outreach
 Laura Cosner - Worship & Music





Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.


Thank you for your participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering.


IF WE ALL
DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP
TO A LOT!




The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.


WAYS TO GIVE

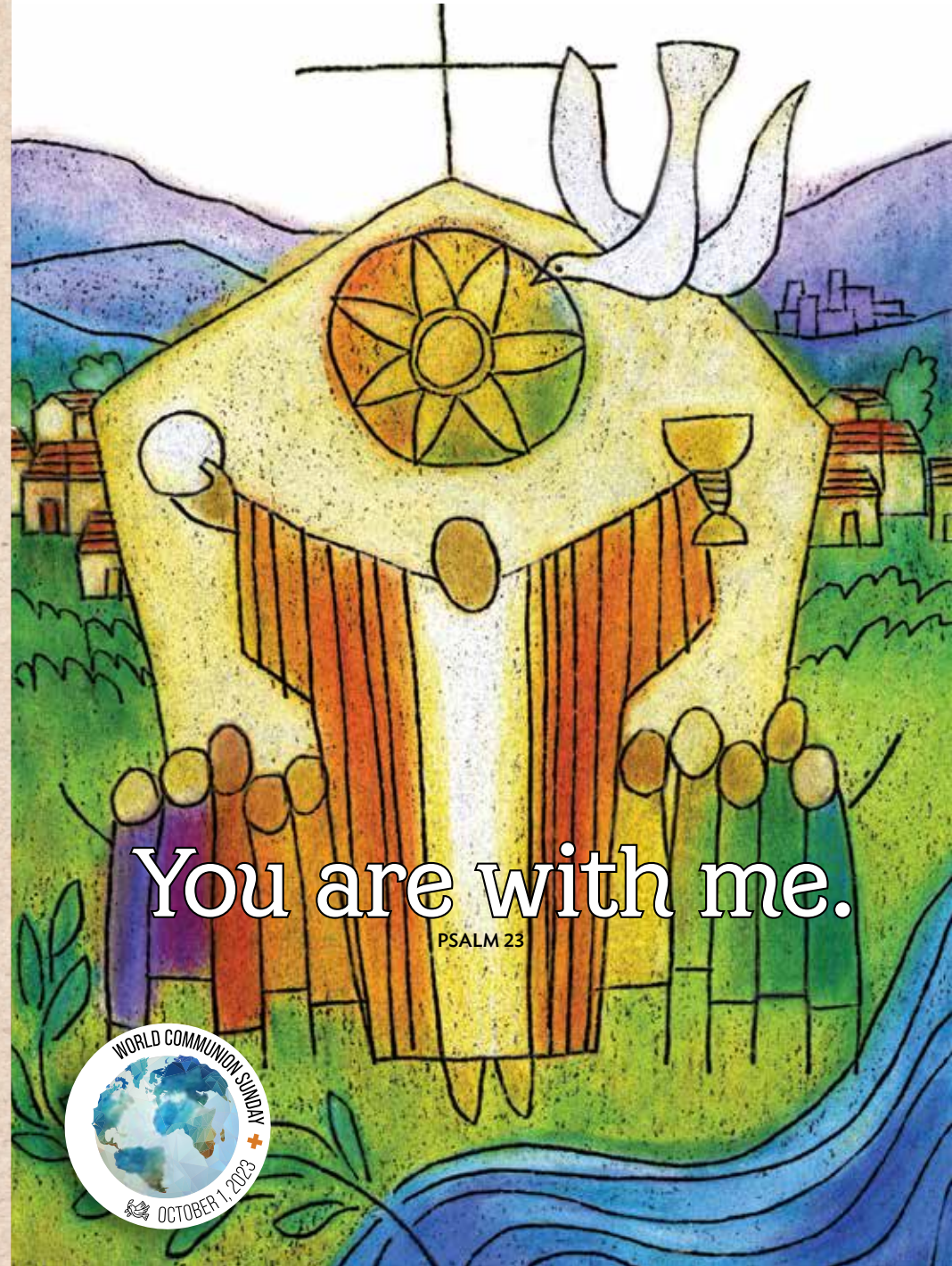

Through your congregation


Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global


Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 or scan this QR code for more information.



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You are with me.

PSALM 23



COVER: BODY OF CHRIST - ART BY JULIE LONNEMAN

 God's presence empowers us to bring peace to all people.

Thanks to your gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering:

Maina Talia, a former International Peacemaker for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, works to address the effects of climate change for families on the South Pacific island of Tuvalu, who have been displaced by the devastating series of cyclones.



In Madagascar, Rev. Helivao Poget, director of ministry to marginalized people for the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, a Presbyterian World Mission partner, works to prevent human trafficking and to stop children from being exploited.



Rev. Stephen Herring works as a peacemaker by pursuing pathways of peace to address structural racism and the catastrophic effects of climate change in North Carolina.

Visit pcusa.org/peace-global/resources for more information.



Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need — those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

25%

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25%

of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

50%

of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

Thank you!

PHOTOS — TOP: ALBINHILLERT-WCC; CENTER: CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IN MADAGASCAR; BOTTOM: INDY TENPOINT COALITION