



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sunday, September 24, 2023
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107)

Jessica: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south..

Jessica: Let those who are wise give heed to these things,

People: and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Jessica: Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN # 35 Praise Ye the Lord**

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With that assurance and the promise of God's grace through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, forgive us when we grumble and complain against your goodness as the Israelites did in the desert, as the elder brother did to his father, as the workers in the field did to the landowner. We judge and weigh your gifts according to our standards. We often question your fairness instead of receiving your grace with thanksgiving and joy. Help us to see your world through your eyes and with your spirit of generosity and grace, that we may welcome the chance to serve in your kingdom and all who join with us. Forgive us, Lord, in your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior. (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: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel! For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

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

Treasure Each Moment

Joseph M. Martin

Treasure each moment, live every day. Drink from the cup that God fills with his grace. In sorrow and laughter, Joy and in strife, treasure each moment of life.

Treasure each moment, time does not wait. Touch those around you and feel their embrace. In hard times and plenty, God will provide. Treasure each moment of life.

Treasure each moment sent from above. Live in thanksgiving reflecting God's love. In springtime and winter, come rain or shine, treasure each moment of life, of life.

Treasure each moment of life. Treasure your life.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rose VonTungeln

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Laura Cosner

Psalm 32:1–5 (ESV)

1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Matthew 5:1-3 (ESV)

1 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.

1 John 1:8–10 (ESV)

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Blessed are Those who Mourn

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN # 345 In an Age of Twisted Values**

1 In an age of twisted values we have lost the truth we need; in sophisticated language we have justified our greed; by our struggle for possessions, we have robbed the poor and weak – hear our cry and heal our nation: your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.

2. We have built discrimination on our prejudice and fear; hatred swiftly turns to cruelty if we hold resentments dear. For communities divided by the walls of class and race hear our cry and heal our nation: show us, Lord, your love, and grace.

3. When our families are broken; when our homes are full of strife; when our children are bewildered, when they lose their way in life; when we fail to give the aged all the care, we know they need – hear our cry and heal our nation; help us to show more love, we pled.

4. We who hear your word so often choose so rarely to obey; turn us from our willful wondering, give us truth to light our way. In the power of your Spirit come to cleanse us, make us new: hear our cry and heal our nation till our nation honors you.

***Affirmation of Faith (Apostles Creed)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. 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**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You each are encouraged to give voice to your concerns or to name those for whom you love and pray.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***CLOSING HYMN # 307 God of Grace and God of Glory (v. 1, 2, & 4)**

**1 God of grace and God of glory, On Thy people pour Thy power.
Crown Thine ancient church's story, Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.**

**2 Lo! the hosts of evil 'round us, Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to faith and
praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.**

**4 Save us from weak resignation, To the evils we deplore. Let the gift of
Thy salvation, Be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us
courage, Serving Thee whom we adore, Serving Thee whom we adore.**

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:

First, Gurdon

Churches in the Presbytery of Honduras

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

Sunday School for the Junior Congregation is making its return! The inaugural session is set to commence on Sunday, October 1st, starting at 10:00 AM. Our very first lesson will delve into the topic of "praise."

Pastor
Rev. Jai D. Kwak

Pianist/Organist
Young Ju Oh

Treasurer
Rose VonTungeln

Sound Board Operator
Zac Cosner

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Session

Class of 2023

Laura Cosner

Jane Judkins

Denise Mosley

Suzy VonTungeln

Class of 2024

George Mosley (Clerk)

Zac Cosner

Pat Drewett

Standing Committee Moderators:

George Mosley - Building & Ground

Zac Cosner - Budget & Finance

Suzy VonTungeln - Fellowship & Education

Denise Mosley - Missions & Outreach

Laura Cosner - Worship & Music

BLESSED
ARE THOSE WHO
MOURN
FOR THEY
WILL BE
COMFORTED
MATTHEW 5:4