



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sunday, December 3, 2023
First 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

PRELUDE

Organ/Piano: Young Ju Oh

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (HOPE)

Munn Family

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 122*)

Logan : "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

People : Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Logan : Jerusalem — built as a city that is bound firmly together.

People : To it the tribes go up, and the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Logan : Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

People : Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

***OPENING HYMN # 14 For the Beauty of the Earth (Verses 1, 2 & 4)**

**1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.**

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light.**

**4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and
mild.**

CALL TO CONFESSION (From Hebrews 4:14-16)

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, remind us that you have formed us with your own hands, made us in your own image, and placed us in this world to be stewards of your good creation. Made for generous relationships, we have retreated into ourselves. Created for the purpose of making your goodness known, we allow lesser tasks to occupy our time. Forgive our failure to live in the way you made us to live. Renew within us the knowledge of your love so that we may live joyfully and gratefully, sharing what we have. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who offered himself for us, and opens to us the way of eternal life (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: With the coming of Christ, God has given us the gift of forgiveness, even seventy times seven. God reaches out to offer us

new life, a new day, a chance to begin again — loved and beautiful, even as on the first day of creation. Believe the promise of the Gospel:

People: In 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.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 12:14–21 (ESV)

14 But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

15 Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all 16 and ordered them not to make him known. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

18 “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

19 He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; 20 a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory;

21 and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Hope

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN # 314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (Verses 1, 2, & 5)

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

5 Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

*** Affirmation of Faith (From the Confession of 1967)**

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ

by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinners. The power of God's love to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY Hymnal #606 "Praise God, from Whom all Blessings flow"**

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 # 643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

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
Mike & Lan Kelly*

*Hester Insley
Emil & Carol Brown
Laura Hayes
Linda Vick*

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>
<i>ChanSun Oh</i>	<i>Father of Young Oh</i>	<i>Casey Hardin</i>	<i>Relative of Bubba VonTungeln</i>

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:

First, Paragould

Church Custodians

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

Today signifies the start of the advent season. Let us uphold the sanctity of this period through prayers and contemplation, readying ourselves to welcome Immanuel, God among us.

Please find the Christmas Poinsettia Ordering Form to place an order and honor or remember someone special. Each poinsettia, priced at \$16.00, serves as a meaningful tribute or remembrance during the holiday season.

Mark your calendar!

- Dec. 3rd The Season of Advent begins.
- Dec. 9th PW Christmas Party (3:00 PM)
- Dec. 10th Moravian Love Feast (5:30 PM)
- Dec. 16th Choir Christmas Party (5:00 PM)
- Dec. 21st Blue Christmas Service (6:00 PM)
- Dec. 24th Christmas Cantata (11 AM)
- Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (5:30 PM)

Pastor

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

Pianist/Organist

Young Ju Oh

Treasurer

Rose VonTungeln

Sound Board Operator

Zac Cosner

Email: Office@centralprespb.com

Phone: 870-879-9074

Website: <http://www.centralprespb.com>

Website Password: Trinity9074



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

HOPE



Christmas Poinsettias



Poinsettias

The church office is accepting orders for Christmas Poinsettias. The cost is \$16.50 each. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office. The deadline to place an order is December 18th.

Donor(s) _____

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

No. of Poinsettias _____

