



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023



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, PEACE) Mosley Family

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Isaiah 35:10*)

Logan : The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing!

People : Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Logan : Let us worship our God with Joy!

***OPENING HYMN # 93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me revel

CALL TO CONFESSION

As we continue to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ, let us confess the sins that keep us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our doubt and despair lead us to low and longsuffering places. Our eyes downcast, we find nothing for which to give thanks, we find no reason to rejoice. Yet, you call us to resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. You call us to rejoice in a babe about to be born. You call us to lift our eyes in hopeful anticipation of your kingdom to come. Forgive us. Help us. Save us. (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: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23).
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! 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

Piano/Organ: Young Ju Oh

O Holy Night

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining.

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!

Long lay the world in sin and error pining

till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices for yonder breaks a new and
glorious morn!

Fall on your knees Oh hear the angel voices Oh night divine!

Oh, night when Christ was born. Oh night divine! Oh night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another. His law is love and His gospel is
peace. Chains shall He breaks for the slave is our brother.

And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,

Let all within us praise His holy name.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 2:16–18 (ESV)

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Joy

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN # 134 Joy to the World**

**1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature
sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the
sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the
sounding joy.**

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations
prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

*** Affirmation of Faith (from the PC(USA) Declaration of Faith)**

Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.

**The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history, together
with his people's response in faith. It tells how the Lord has moved
with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God, his just and
loving rule over all.**

**It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit. That story is still unfolding, and in faith, we make it our own.**

**It forms our memory and our hope. It tells us who we are and what
we are to do. To retell it is to declare what we believe.**

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 # 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

(Refrain) O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2 True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created. (Refrain)

3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

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>Rhett Lunningham</i>	<i>Nephew of David and Jane Judkins</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>Mary Owens</i>	<i>Co-worker of Rose VonTungeln</i>	<i>Casey Hardin</i>	<i>Relative of Bubba VonTungeln</i>

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:

Memorial Church, Atkins

First, Walnut Ridge

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

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. Today is the last day to order.

Yesterday, the choir members enjoyed a joyful time together. First, we give our thanks and praises to God for guiding us throughout the year. And thank you to everyone who joined. A special acknowledgment to the Cosner family for graciously opening their home for this exceptional gathering.

Although Christmas is usually linked with joy and celebration, it can also pose challenges for many individuals. Do you find this time of year difficult? We invite you to join us for the Blue Christmas Service this Thursday at 6 PM.

Come and be part of our Sunday worship on December 24th at 11 AM, where we're thrilled to present our annual Christmas Cantata. Bring your friends and family to joyfully celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ, our savior.

And don't miss the enchanting Candlelight Service at 5:30 PM! Join us for this serene and beautiful gathering to illuminate the significance of this special season.

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:

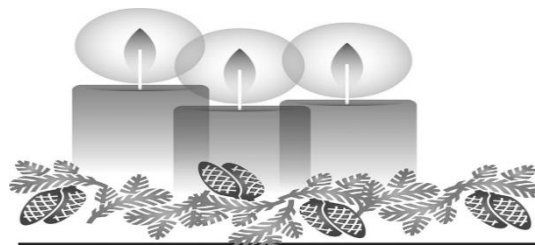
George Mosley - Building & Ground

Zac Cosner - Budget & Finance

Suzy VonTungeln - Fellowship & Education

Denise Mosley - Missions & Outreach

Laura Cosner - Worship & Music



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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