



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sunday, December 31, 2023
First Sunday after Christmas



GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 90)

Logan : Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Logan : Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love.

People: We are God's people, the sheep of His pasture.

Logan : Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise.

People: So that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Logan : Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands —

People: O prosper the work of our hands! Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN # 81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken**

**1 Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God!
God, whose Word cannot be broken, Formed thee for His own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.**

**2 Round each habitation hov'ring, See the cloud and fire appear,
For a glory and a cov'ring, Showing that the Lord is near;
Thus deriving from our banner Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna Which He gives them when they pray.**

**3 See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters, And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint while such a river Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord, the giver, Never fails from age to age.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Scripture also promises us that we are now made right with God by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Acknowledging this truth about ourselves and with gratitude for the truth about God, let us confess our sins in God's presence and before one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us.

As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Time of silent confession) Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON:

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI Hymn #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

There Is A Higher Throne

**There is a higher throne Than all this world has known
Where faithful ones from every tongue Will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand Made faultless through the Lamb
Believing hearts find promised grace, Salvation comes.**

**Hear heaven's voices sing Their thunderous anthem rings
Through emerald courts and sapphire skies Their praises rise
All glory, wisdom, power Strength, thanks, and honor are
To God our King, who reigns on high Forevermore**

**And there we'll find our home Our life before the throne.
We'll honor Him in perfect song Where we belong.**

He'll wipe each tear-stained eye. As thirst and hunger die

The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King.

We'll reign with Him.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rose VonTungeln

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 13:44–46 (ESV)

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Have You Found Your Treasure Yet?

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*** HYMN # 263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!**

1 All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all! Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

2 Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all! Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

3 Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all! To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

4 O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

***Affirmation of Faith (from A Declaration of Faith)**

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly 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 # 353 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

(Refrain) On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.

2 When dark ness seems to hid his face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and story gale, my anchor holds within the vale. (Refrain)

3 His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found; In Him, my righteousness, alone, Faultless to stand before the throne. (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>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>Mary Owens</i>	<i>Friend of Rose VonTungeln</i>	<i>Family of Casey Hardin</i>	<i>Relative of Bubba VonTungeln</i>

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:

Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village

First, Seary

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.

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

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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

Announcements

We'd love for you to join us in bidding farewell to the Christmas decorations on January 7th after worship! Your helping hands will be greatly appreciated, and as a token of our thanks, we'll be serving a light lunch (Thanks, Ms. Suzy VonTungeln!).

Hey friends, missed you all! Grab your Bibles and join us for an awesome journey back into faith and fun at Youth Sunday School on January 7th at 10AM. We can't wait to see you!

The Women's Circle circles back on Jan. 14th, second Sunday after worship! All voices welcome! Let's raise our cups (of coffee, tea, or anything you fancy) in friendship and growth at the Women's Circle. We're looking forward to connecting and growing together!

Open Your Heart and Voice at Trinity Village's Solemn Vesper Service Today. Let the spirit guide you to Trinity Village today at 4 PM for a heartwarming Vesper service.

