



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sunday, January 7, 2024
Epiphany of the Lord Sunday



GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

George: God spoke the creative Word into the formless void.

People: The cosmos cries, "Glory!"

George: From the wilderness, God brought forth new life and liberation.

People: The plants and animals that inhabit the wild places cry, "Glory!"

George: A messenger in the wilderness brings good news.

People: God's people cry, "Glory!"

George: In baptism, we are united to God through Jesus Christ.

People: With all of creation, we cry "Glory!"

***OPENING HYMN # 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come**

**1 Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, Which shines on you today.**

**2 Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty, Good tidings to the poor.**

**3 Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones And comfort those who mourn.**

**4 Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

The One who was without sin received the baptism of repentance so that we who have sinned may be covered by his righteousness. The Spirit enables us to tell the truth of our brokenness, assured already of the grace we know in Jesus Christ. Let us confess together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creating God, we cannot look at our lives, our communities, or the world around us without seeing the fractures and brokenness that reflect the reality of sin.

You created the earth and called it good, but it now groans, awaiting redemption and re-creation under the weight of our greed, abuse and carelessness.

You created humanity in your image, and called us very good, but we have ignored the image of God in each other. We have created, maintained and benefitted from unjust systems built on divisions based on race, gender, ethnicity and more.

You poured out your love in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and how to love, but we continue to make our own path, follow our own desires, and neglect to love others as Christ loves us.

Lord, have mercy. Rend the heavens. Re-create us now.

(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 heavens part, the waters swirl and the dove descends, reminding us that we, too, are God's beloved children

People: We are covered by God's grace and forgiven in Jesus Christ.

Amen!

***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

We Will Keep Our Faith Alive!

Gathered here, within this place, we can share in God's redeeming grace.

There's no room for doubt or fear; we can feel His presence here.

As we face each passing day we will serve and honor and obey;
and if hope should start to dim, we will know our trust is in Him.

**(Chorus) And we will keep our faith alive, God will always be our guide.
Through the darkest night, we will see God's light.
We will keep our faith alive!**

**We will live as God has planned, though at times we may not understand.
Many things we may not see, but our faith will help us believe.
From His Word we learn the truth; through His love we all are born anew.
With His help, we will not fail for we know our God will prevail.**

**When we share the Love He gives, all the world will know that we are His.
In God's name we stand as one; and through us, His work will be done!
And we will keep our faith alive, God will always be our guide. Through the
darkest night, we will see God's light. We will keep our faith alive!
We will stand as one until His work is done, we will keep our faith a – live!**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rose VonTungeln

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 2:1–2, 9-12 (ESV)

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Can You See Your Star and Follow?

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.

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 (The Apostles' Creed)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the
dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father almighty. From there He will 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 the 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 heavenly host;**

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

THE LORD'S TABLE

THE 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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are your people. You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together. When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son, Who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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 # 847 Our Hope, Our Life**

1 Our hope, our life are in the Lord, the God we honor and confess. Why crave renown or opulence? They fade, those things we now possess.

2 Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power, but what they cherish will decay; and still the ransom for a soul remains a price too great to pay.

3 Though wealth or learning may be ours, or fame that spread throughout the land, the shackles of mortality prevent so much that we have planned.

4 Beyond this age of shame and sham we glimpse a better destiny: the Lord will lift us free from death to dwell in praise eternally.

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:

First, Clarksville Park Hill,

North Little Rock

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

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

Announcements

We'd love for you to join us in bidding farewell to the Christmas decorations today 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!).

The Presbyterian 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 Presbyterian Women's Circle. We're looking forward to connecting and growing together!

Get ready to raise your voices! Choir practice returns to its usual slot next Wednesday, January 10th, at 6:30 PM.

Thursday Evening Bible Study Resumes January 11th. Get ready to dive deeper into scripture! Our Bible study group resumes on Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 PM. This session, we'll be delving into the fascinating world of Zechariah, chapter 7 from the Minor Prophets.

