**Celebration of Worship**

**First Sunday in Advent**

**December 1, 2019**

We believe the words of Jesus reflect the heart of the Divine:

“I will never turn away anyone who comes to me.”

John 6:37

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

***Unknowable God, you come to reveal yourself to us in loving relationship. You come with a message of peace and comfort for those who are hurting and those who are tired. You come with a word of hope for the hopeless. As you did centuries ago, be with us again today as we seek to learn from you and from one another. In the name of your Child, Jesus Christ, who walked among us, Amen.***

**PRELUDE**     ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** Jon Hassell

 \* *Indicates a time in the service when you are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

    The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Hope is grace for the broken –

**Pulling us up.**

Hope is manna in the wilderness

**When we want to give up.**

Hope is seeing stars in the city

**When we forget the sky is there.**

Hope is the anthem of faith

**And the reason we’re here.**

So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,

**For the God of new life is drawing near.**

Let us worship the Holy One.

**\*HYMN 107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn***

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Candle of Hope**

**SUNG RESPONSE 88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  (verses 1 & 2)**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days. But watch what God does during this time. God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths; God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do, so we might be forgiven and graced with new life. Let us approach the One who waits - for us!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Patient God, you paint a picture of a better world – a world of peace and joy, of equality and grace. But we turn our heads and close our eyes, afraid that you might want us to help. You ask us to be brave, and we are complacent. You ask us to speak out, but instead we stay quiet. You ask us to listen, and we assume we are the experts. You lead with love, and we wait on the sidelines. Forgive us for always being ten steps behind you. Forgive us for all the ways we are still works in progress. Fill our hearts with a hope that won’t let go. Gratefully we pray . . .**

*A period of silent prayer is observed.*

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

We worship a God who is not distant nor apathetic, but a God who is with us—a God who loves us, forgives us, and renews us. In gratitude to our gracious God, let us keep our eyes open this Advent season and always, looking for God’s daily presence, that we might conform our ways to God’s ways of compassion and grace.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**RESPONSE 155 *Raise a Song of Gladness***

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**ANTHEM *Lost in the Night*** arr. Kyle Haugen

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 122 & Isaiah 2:1-5**

**SERMON** *God’s Promised Day Can’t Wait* Rev*.* Jennifer Martin

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness***

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here. Come find your place here where there are no strangers or foreigners, no outsiders or others, only brothers and sisters in the sight of God.

**THE CALL TO PRAYER**

May the coming God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts, people of God, your redemption draws near.

**We will offer our prayers to the One who leads us in the Way.**

Join together in giving thanksgiving to God.

**We praise the One for whom we wait this day and every day.**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*The Homebound Communion basket represents the extension of the Lord’s Supper from this gathered community to our homebound members through the ministry of our deacons. May we continue to remember the faithful service of all the saints.*

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

**MUSIC FOR MEDITATION       *"Veni Emmanuel"*** Philip Moore

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring your presence into our lives and our experiences. Truly you are Emmanuel, God with us. We thank you for this meal of grace and the stories of love, peace, joy, and hope it tells. Empower us this Advent and beyond to share your story in our words and in our lives. In the name of the One for whom we wait. Amen.**

**AN INVITATION TO OFFERING**

We are a people of hope, living in the light of God’s promises.  
In this spirit may we so give.

**OFFERTORY       *Come Now, Savior of the Nations***  Bach

*Please use the yellow prayer request cards found in the pew and place them in the offering plate to be included in the prayers of the people and/or the email prayer ministry of CPC.*

**\*SONG OF PRAISE 110 *Love has Come (verse 3)***

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us.

Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**& THE LORD’S PRAYER**  
**God of hope and wonder, even surrounded by confusion and trouble we look for you. Take these gifts and use them for acts of justice, peace, mercy, and hope. Receive also the gifts of our time and our actions that are just as precious to you as silver and gold.**

Hear us now as we offer the prayers of this community . . .

**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**

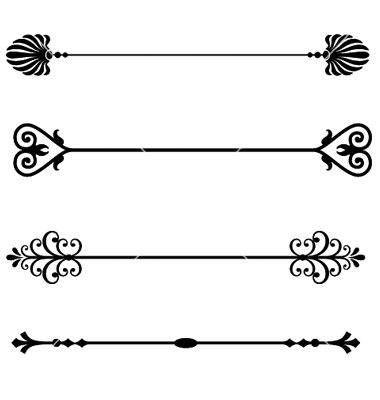
**and the glory, forever.  Amen.**

**\* HYMN 772 *Live into Hope***

**\* BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE    *The King Shall Come*** David N. Johnson

Visitors, friends, members, welcome to worship! Please feel free to participate in ways that you feel led, and comfortable if you would just like to observe.  If you are interested in learning more about making Central Presbyterian your church home, please speak with Rev. Jennifer Martin or the welcome greeter following the service.



We are glad you are here and invite you to

Join us for coffee and snacks

In the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

**TODAY AT CENTRAL**

**10:00am Lord’s Supper, Sanctuary**

**11:00am Fellowship & Advent Workshop**

**OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday - Thursday, 8:30am-12:30pm, 1:30-4:00pm**

**Monday 8:30 – 11:30am, Friday - Closed**

Mon, Dec 2 9:00am Central Walkers

11:00am Bible Study Parlor

3:30pm Endowment Committee Pastor’s Office

6:30pm Badminton Group Fellowship Hall

Wed, Dec 4 11:00am Martha & Miriam Circle Parlor

Thurs, Dec 5 10:00am Christian Discipleship Pastor’s Office

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiK8-qjkOHeAhWiqVQKHRHkCUkQjRx6BAgBEAQ&url=http://files8.webydo.com/93/9338067/UploadedFiles/3F01D307-1E5B-7CC5-8E68-DBAA8629761A.pdf&psig=AOvVaw2TcL1levywBQYPfJZTYl5o&ust=1542739923650819)***ADVENT WORKSHOP TODAY*-** in the Fellowship Hall after worship. We will be having various crafts including wreath making, cookie decorating and more! This time of fellowship and creativity is a great way to begin this season remembering what it’s all about!

***YOU CAN REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL*** **-** during the Advent and Christmas seasons by purchasing poinsettia plants to decorate the Sanctuary. Forms for ordering poinsettias will be on the table in the Narthex. The cost is $10 each. Orders are due December 15th. Those poinsettias not picked up after the Christmas service are distributed to homebound members and friends.

*****HOLIDAY WREATHS* -** When you order a Christmas wreath from the women who harvest our berries and vegetables, you do one good turn for another. Your purchase supports farmworker women in Woodburn. By making and selling wreaths, the members of Mujeres Luchadores Progresitas (Women Striving for Progress) raise the economic well-being of their families and develop leadership and business skills. The wreaths are hand tied and made of fresh Oregon noble fir, decorated with holly sprigs, pine cones, and a red bow. They are gorgeous wreaths, worth every penny of $35. More details at the display in the Narthex. ***Please note the schedule: Place your check to “MLP” in the Narthex display by today, December 1st. Pick up your wreath following worship next Sunday, December 8th in Room 121A near the Ferry Street entrance.*** Thank you for your support of our farmworkers.

***We thank the following faithful people who are helping behind the scenes today:***

***Ministers All***

***BIRTHDAYS***

***THIS WEEK***

1 Shirley Irsfeld

2 Barbara Cowan

***Coffee Hour Fellowship Committee***

***Deacon on Call Sally Hayden***

***Welcome Greeter Jane Rimerman***

***Liturgist Alice Scroeder***

***Transport Team Randy Kolb***

***Organist Dan Rinnan***

***Sound Technician Alex Pratt***

***Building Host Joe Olney***

***Guest Choir Director Matt Svoboda***

***ARTIST’S STATEMENT: PEACE WITHOUT YOUR WALLS*** **-** We all desire peace and security for ourselves, our families, and our communities. It seems, however, we often disagree about how to achieve peace and security, and about who is deserving of such well-being. Often, those who have realized even a baseline sense of peace and security quickly forget what it was like to be without. Fear creeps in and we separate ourselves with walls and isolate ourselves within towers. We worship and exist with people like us because it feels safe. We hoard peace and security as though they are finite resources, and elevate our own peace and security above that of other nations. We pray for ourselves, even if our answered prayers result in our neighbor’s harm. This self-focused, defensive ideology is becoming increasingly pervasive in the United States, and its finding strongholds in other countries too. Powerful people appeal to this inward-turning gaze, stoking fears and encouraging division. This text celebrates refuge. As we know well from the news and the growing volatility at our borders, there are many who have become refugees—those seeking security and peace—while those within their walls and towers seek the good of themselves. When I began to paint this piece, I kept wondering how walls and peace can coexist, but if I’m honest, if true shalom were to be realized, there would be no need for walls or towers. For me, peace looks like open doors leading out of the confinement of stone walls and into a field of poppies. For me, peace looks like flowers scaling walls, weakening the strength of stone foundations, and over time, bringing the barriers down. Peace looks like open arms—open to the difficult work of welcoming peace, and open to receiving the boundless gifts of a truly peaceful world. —Lauren Wright Pittman



Flowers today have been given to the glory of God by Pat & Randy Kolb, and in honor of Ellsworth Pruden, Pat’s father.

[](https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=presbyterian+church+graphics&id=4F635EBC5EA8026E0B758CFD936DE7811D529FDA&FORM=IQFRBA)

**CENTRAL**

**PRESBYTERIAN**

**CHURCH**

**A CARING, INQUIRING, INCLUSIVE**

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

**DECEMBER 1, 2019**

**PEACE WITHOUT YOUR WALLS** by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Psalm 122 ~ Acrylic & ink on canvas

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