



Order of Service 12.3.23
First Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: Purple

Prelude

The Angel Gabriel—Basque Carol/arr. Greene

Acolyte

Greetings—

Kayla Potter Fuller,
Director of Children/Youth Ministries

Welcome/Announcements—Melissa B.

Lighting of the Advent Candle—

Barry Brogdon as The Farmer
Responsive Reading: Psalm 130:5-7

LEADER: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
ALL: And in his word I put my hope.

LEADER: My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning,
ALL: More than watchmen wait for the morning.

LEADER: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
ALL: For with the Lord is unfailing love and with
him is full redemption.

LIGHTING RESPONSE AND PRAYER: Romans 15:13

LEADER: The candle of hope prepares us for
Christ's coming.
ALL: Our hearts glow with the light of hope.

LEADER: May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust in him, so that you may
overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: We wait with hope. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Opening Worship

Glorious Day (CCLI # 7081388)
V1, V2, CH, V3, CH, Bridge, CH

Verse 1

I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight
It was my tomb 'til I met You

Verse 2

I was breathing but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb 'til I met You

Chorus

('Cause when) You called my name (and)
I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name (and) I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

Verse 3

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all that I know
The old made new Jesus when I met You

Chorus

Bridge

I needed rescue my sin was heavy
But chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter I was an orphan
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven
When I was broken You were my healing
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future my eyes are open

Chorus

How Great Is Our God (CCLI # 4348399)

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

Morning Prayer—Pastor Perry Hines
The Lord's Prayer UMH 895

INVITATION

Christ the Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the

cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

**Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ,

you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ,

you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

Special Choir Music

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning —Lloyd Larson

Offering

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel with Savior of the

Nations, Come—arr. McKibben

Doxology UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Offertory Prayer

Scripture Lesson

1 John 3:1-3 NKJV

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children

of God! Therefore the world does not

know us, because it did not know

Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it

has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we

know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him,

for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Romans 5:8 NKJV

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 8:38-39 NKJV

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 1:12 NKJV

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

John 3:19-20 NKJV

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Ephesians 2:7 NKJV

⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Sermon

Pastor Perry Hines

Sermon Title

"The Love of God"

The Lord's Supper

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

On the night in which he

gave himself up for us,

he took bread, gave thanks to you,

broke the bread, gave it to his disciples

and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over,

he took the cup, gave thanks to you,

gave it to his disciples,

and said: "Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these

your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise

and thanksgiving as a

holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's

offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ.

Receiving the Bread and Cup
Communion Meditation-arr. Johnson

Closing Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful UMH#234 (V1,2,3)

Verse 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.

Verse 2

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

Refrain

Verse 3

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Benediction

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

Postlude

Prepare the Way, O Zion —17th C. Swedish Melody/arr. Paxton

***Response is in bold.**



12/10/23 The **Bells of Praise** will be playing a mini concert beginning at 9:30 am followed by our regular worship service.

12/10/23 Let's Go Caroling! Meet at Central at 3:15pm to go sing at Summit Place and to local shut-in members.

12/17/23 Come join us for our annual **Christmas Cantata**, "The Glory of Christmas" by Lloyd Larson at 10:00 am

12/24/23 Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00am.

12/24/23 Come join us for our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** at 7:00 pm.

Please note: On Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Service there will be no nursery available.

This year the Russell Christmas Project is collecting cash and blankets to donate to a local elementary school with many families in need. You can bring your blankets to the church office. For donations, please make your check out to **Russell Christmas Project**. We will be collecting these items until Sunday, December 3. Thanks for your support!

The Narthex Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of James Alexander by his wife, Margie Alexander, their daughters, Libby Putnam & Janet Edwards and their families

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT
ATTENDANCE**

(11/26) 10:00a Service.....91

Operating Fund

Contributions 11/26 \$4,132.00

Contributions MTD \$19,066.37

Ushers: Joe Patterson, Jimmy Warren, Allan Propst
Greeter: Cecelia Meade, Cindy Eaker

Upcoming Meetings:

12/4/23 Trustees, 6:00 pm

12/11/23 Finance Meeting, 6:00pm & Administrative Council, 7:00 pm

12/12/23 Endowment Meeting, 6:30 pm

12/14/23 Missions Committee 6:30 pm

Mary's Breakfast Bunch will not meet in December and will resume in January 2024.

Small Group News We want to thank you all for your support of our small groups here at Central as well as our small group leaders. We pray that this ministry has been a blessing to you. Please note that our 3rd 2023 small group semester will be ending on December 10th. Our semester-based groups will be taking a brief break until the beginning of the new year. Further details for the start of the 1st 2024 semester are to come. In the meantime, please feel free to join any of our Ongoing small groups or Sunday morning small groups. You can find a list of these in your newsletter. If you are interested in leading a small group during the 1st 2024 semester, please reach out to Kayla at kayla@cmkm.org.

Save the Date for the 2024 Methodist Women's Parade of Tables on Saturday, January 20! If you would like to sponsor a table or purchase tickets, please see Marie Brinkley or Elaine Dixon. Proceeds for this event will benefit local charities. For more information, please contact the church office at 704-739-2471 or central@cmkm.org.

Thank you for participating in **Operation Christmas Child this year!** We received 54 physical boxes, and by 11/19/23 81 total were donated online. We are happy to announce that we reached our goal, and the final numbers will be published in January. Stay tuned for more information about where the shoeboxes were delivered.

2024 Ushers and Greeters Needed We are looking for ushers and greeters for Sunday Morning Worship at Central. This is a ministry that can help our church grow, and we need your help. We are currently working on the usher and greeter calendar for the upcoming year, and we are in need of only 4 volunteers each month. You can contact Joe Patterson or the church office at 704-739-2471 or central@cmkm.org to let us know you are willing to serve. Thank you for your interest!

KIDS Central & Nursery News Our **Nursery** is available starting at 9:00 am for ages 0-4 years old. We are in need of volunteers in the nursery to help support this ministry. Please see or contact Kayla Potter Fuller at kayla@cmkm.org or 704-739-2471. **KID Central** is our church's church for K-5th and **check in is now at 9:00am** on Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact our Youth and Children's Ministries Director, Kayla Potter Fuller at kayla@cmkm.org.

Central Youth meets on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm. If you have any questions or would like to join/volunteer for youth events, please contact Kayla Potter Fuller at kayla@cmkm.org or 704-739-2471. You can reach **Pastor Perry Hines** at 828-768-5996.

Prayer List: Praises and Concerns

Please note names will stay on list for one month unless otherwise requested— Contact the church office at 704-739-2471 or central@cmkm.org to have names added/or removed from the prayer list.

Members in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Homebound: Jane Edwards; Barbara Bridges; John Eagle; Marilyn Hamrick.

Military Personnel: SSGT Tyler Dixon-Marines; SSGT Jonathan Brucker-Army; SSgt. Joshua Brucker; Army; CAPT Alex Plonk-Air Force; S 1 Tyler Hellstrand-Navy; SSG Colby Bailey—Army; CAPT Wendell Bunch, Jr.—Army; CAPT Alex Young,—Air Force; PFC Matthew Oliveira—Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX.

Praises: Potential new members joining our church.

Concerns: (members/constituents/church-related concerns): Guidance in developing new ministries; our college students; Community Kitchen Ministry; Carol Brazzell (fall) 11.17.23; Mark Dixon 11.28.23; Dana Potter (new job endeavors) 11.28.23.

Concerns: (friends/relatives/other concerns): All children in need; Samuel Smith (cancer) 9.30.19; Tony Donadio (Uncle of Carol Velky) 8.29.23; Haley Judd (healing) 9.5.23.; Mary Donadio 10.3.23; Jamie Keever (chemo treatments), cousin of Audrey Brooks 8.29.23; Kathy Rogers (chemo treatments) 10.24.23; Tim Best (healing) 10.24.23; Sarah Margaret White (death) mother of Debby Ray and Ashley Kerns 11.4.23, Tina Melvin, (death) mother of Nikki Van Dyke 11.7.23; Charlene Maxey 11.14.23; Travis 11.28.23; The Danner Family 11.28.23; Dan Dixon brother of Greg Dixon & Teresa Williams (death) 11.30.23.



Welcome Visitors!

Scan to get connected to Central, inquire about membership and for prayer requests.