



December 5, 2021

PRELUDE Sleepers, Wake (J.S. Bach)

Ed Alstrom, Music Director and Organist

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Ruth Family

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! ...

Let us pray: O God, when we look out onto our world, we yearn for your peace. Make us into your peacemakers. And abide with us as we await your coming. God of hope, God of peace... into our darkness, come.

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE

CANDLES OF ADVENT - Peace

Don Besig - Nancy Price

Light one can-dle in the_night. Light one can-dle of peace;

5
peace that will free the world from war, peace that will last for ev-er - more,

9
peace through the child we are wait-ing for. Light one candle of peace.

13
Ad-vent can - dles warm and bright, fill the world with ra - diant_ light.

17
Help us find_the Prom-ised One; guide us to the child who will come.

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Edward Baugh

As the days draw closer to our Saviors' birth,
We long for the peace only God can give.
 As the hours fly by and we grow busier each day,
We hunger for the rest only Christ can give.
 As commercials cry out and our budgets are strained,
We thirst for the meaning only God's Spirit can give.
 O come let us open our hearts,
And prepare for the birth of our Lord!

* **HYMN #97** Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Rev. Edward Baugh

- 1 Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
 Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
 Watchman, does its beautiful ray news of joy or hope foretell?
 Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.
- 2 Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
 Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
 Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
 Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
- 3 Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
 Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
 Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
 Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Frederick Moulongo

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elder Frederick Moulongo

**Almighty God,
 you who shaped out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed.
 You who called forth light, forgive our preference for the dark!
 You who sent John to be a voice crying, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!
 Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Elder Frederick Moulongo

Please take this time for personal confession.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Elder Frederick Moulongo

Friends, I am confident of this:
 If we repent, God is sure to forgive us.
 The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Elder Frederick Moulongo

(if you are participating today through Facebook,
 please register your peace for each other now)
 Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
 we also should forgive one another.
 The peace of Christ be with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Frederick Moulongo

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Frederick Moulongo

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit
 instruct us by the light of your prophets.
 Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call
 to become your path into the world.
 In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Elder Frederick Moulongo

Malachi 3:1-20

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. ⁶For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.

⁷Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you

say, "How shall we return?" ⁸Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, "How are we robbing you?" In your tithes and offerings! ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. ¹¹I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

¹³You have spoken harsh words against me, says the Lord. Yet you say, "How have we spoken against you?" ¹⁴You have said, "It is vain to serve God. What do we profit by keeping his command or by going about as mourners before the Lord of hosts?" ¹⁵Now we count the arrogant happy; evildoers not only prosper, but when they put God to the test they escape." ¹⁶Then those who revered the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord took note and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who revered the Lord and thought on his name. ¹⁷They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as parents spare their children who serve them. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Every Valley (John Ness Beck)

The Chancel Choir

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low; and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Edward Baugh

SERMON "Turn Around"

Rev. Edward Baugh

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Rev. Edward Baugh

Nicene Creed

Let us confess the faith of the universal church.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son,
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Edward Baugh

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, for you made us,
and before us you made the world we inhabit,
and before the world you made the eternal home
in which, through Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular and all that is plain
have their origin in you;

all that is lovely and all who are loving
point to you as their fulfillment.

And grateful as we are for the world we know
and the universe beyond our knowing,
we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain,
for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life, which informs our living,
for his compassion, which changes our hearts,
for his clear speaking, which contradicts our generalities,
for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying,
his rising to life and breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him.

Therefore we gladly join our voices
to the song of the church on earth and in heaven:

♪♪ **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.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, send now, in kindness,
your Holy Spirit to make our sharing in this bread and cup
a sharing in Christ's body and blood.
And let that same Spirit rest on us,

converting us from the patterns of this passing world,
until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God,
We give you thanks for this holy mystery
In which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
In the strength of your Spirit,
To give ourselves for others
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

Elder Frederick Moulongo

Virtual and in-person giving opportunities:

- 1) Online at our Easytithes site - <https://app.easytithes.com/app/giving/centralmontclair>
- 2) Text "Give" to 973-315-6494
- 3) Place offerings in the trays at the doors of the sanctuary as you depart.

Offering Prayer

* **HYMN #105** People, Look East (verses 1, 4, & 5)

Rev. Edward Baugh

- 1 People, look east. The time is near, of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim; One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

* **CHARGE/BLESSING**

Rev. Edward Baugh

POSTLUDE O Thou of God the Father (J.S. Bach)

Central's Mission Statement:

“As disciples of Jesus Christ and good stewards of God’s Grace, we are a caring, inclusive congregation that strives to grow in Christian faith, proclaim the Good News, and provide service in ministry to each other, our diverse community, and the world.”

Central Presbyterian Church is a Covenant Network congregation, a community within the Presbyterian Church, USA, that seeks to be inclusive, particularly with regard to welcoming LGBT persons as members and leaders.

December Birthdays

2 Morgan Moulongo
4 David George
8 Aaliyah Ali
10 Eden Selassie
15 Martha Day
16 (Jeniffer) Alissa Cabezas
 Karen Campbell
 Lauren Waisanen
17 Betty Girma-Hall
23 Shane Faber
24 Lukas Selassie

* If you are able, please stand.

Worship
Central Presbyterian Church
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