

through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing Mary's song of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Body of Christ, no matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God. So hear and repeat these words after me: I am God's beloved.

People: I am God's beloved.

Leader: I am forgiven.

People: I am forgiven.

Leader: I am blessed and sent to serve.

People: I am blessed and sent to serve.

Leader: This is the good news of the Gospel. This is a hope we can hang our hats on.

People: Thanks be to God for God's unending love. Amen.

***Congregational Response** "Glory to God in the Highest" (back cover, hymnal)

*Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Luke 1:67-80

Anthem "Sing We Now of Christmas" (French Carol)

Second Reading Luke 1:46-55

Message "Songs of Hope, Stories of Faith" Rev. Wil Reinowski

***Hymn** "Lullaby of Praise" (lyrics – A. Strickland)

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison):

We believe that hope can change the world. We believe that God uses ordinary people, like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good. And we believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference. We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound. We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope. But we choose hope anyway. In the face of hardship, we hope together. We hope with God. We hope for a better world. This is our song. We believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

***Congregational Response** "Gloria Patri" (back cover Hymnal)

* Please stand as you are able.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Offering

The offering basket is located at the back of the west aisle of the sanctuary. Feel free to leave your offering at any time.

Offertory "Angel Carols" (Mendelssohn)

***Doxology** 606

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news. We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

***Hymn** "Prepare the Way, O Zion" 106

*Benediction

Postlude "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High" (Traditional)



Please use the Ritual of Friendship pads to let us know you're with us today.

Whether you are in person or on-line, you can also sign in at centralpreschurch.org/friendship

In our effort to be inclusive of those who are unable to be with us in person, we live stream our worship services online. For those who are camera-shy, seating is available in the back two rows of the main floor or anywhere in the balcony.

Advent at Central

December 24

Office Closed

December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

December 25

Office Closed – Merry Christmas!

In Our Prayers ✂

We pray for Lou Camilotto as he enters the Church Triumphant, and for Steve Stucky for health concerns. We pray for our Special Care Friends, Bill Hatfield and Marty & Harry Hudlow.

Central Happenings

SUNDAY – December 22

11:00am The Shepherd's Run (Sanctuary)

3:00pm Youth Christmas Party (Bethany/Vinton)

TUESDAY – December 24

Christmas Eve – Church Office Closed

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY – December 25

Christmas Day – Church Office Closed

The Christmas Joy offering aids current and retired pastors in need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges. Please mark your checks "Christmas Joy" on the memo line. Donations are being accepted through 12/31.

Join us on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. for a Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. Arrive early to enjoy preservice organ music beginning at 6:45 p.m.

Shepherds' Run is today! Join us at 11:00 a.m. to assemble baskets of treats for local first responders as a token of our gratitude for their service on Christmas Eve.

Cover Image: "Embroidered Borders" by Nicolette Peñaranda. Inspired by Luke 1:46-55. Acrylic, ink, and mixed media collage on canvas. Used with permission.

Liturgy adapted from the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak
Director of Contemporary Music: Paul Foster
Organist: Doug Fletcher
Custodian: Bob Hill

A Matthew 25 Congregation
31 North Seventh Street
Lafayette, IN 47901
Hours: Weekdays 9am-Noon
765-742-8481
news@centralpreschurch.org
www.centralpreschurch.org



Central Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

How does a weary world rejoice?

Sunday, December 22, 2024



Welcome

Prelude

"Meditation on The First Noel"

(arr. Paul Fey)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Response

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v. 4)

8

*Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

133

Call to Confession

Roy Johnson

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on

* Please stand as you are able.