

**\*Call to Worship** Ryan Shelly

Leader: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

**People: God is in our joy.**

Leader: God is in this room.

**People: We have reason to celebrate.**

Leader: We have a reason to sing.

**People: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.**

**\*Opening Hymn** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” 611

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Leader: Joyful God, You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children.

**People: Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?**

Leader: In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit,

**People: this often seems easier said than done.**

Leader: Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

**People: Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.**

Leader: We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.

**People: Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**People: We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.**

**\*Sung Response** “Angels We Have Heard on High” (Refrain) 113

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Lesson One**

**Listen for Joy** Luke 2:10

Isaiah 9:2-3

**\*Sing with Joy** “Go Tell It On the Mountain” 136

**Practice Joy**

**Lesson Two**

**Listen for Joy** Matthew 2:10

Psalms 148

**\*Sing with Joy** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” 133

**Practice Joy**

**Lesson Three**

**Listen for Joy** Psalm 126:1-3

Isaiah 55:12-13

**\*Sing with Joy** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” 119

**Practice Joy**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory** “Carol of the Bells” (arr. Paul Fey)

**\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

In this gifting season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring. May they be used in the service of your grace and truth dwelling among us. In Christ’s holy name we pray.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn** “Joy to The World” 134

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** “Fanfare on “Joy to the World”” (arr. Paul Fey)



## In Our Prayers ✂

We pray for Dana Smith for health concerns and for the family of David Conner as he enters the Church Triumphant. We also pray for our Special Care friends, especially Kathryn Long and Jane Messer.

## Central Happenings

### SUNDAY – December 28

10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary/Online)

### MONDAY – December 29

6:00 p.m. Scouts (Scout Room)

### WEDNESDAY – December 31

New Years Eve (Office Closes at 12:00 p.m.)

12:00 p.m. Charity Knitters (Discipleship)

### THURSDAY – January 1

Office closed for New Years

**All college students are invited** to have lunch on Central. Please find Terry and Lynne Phillips in the Gathering Space immediately after the service to say you're joining in.

**The greeter this morning** is Joe Riley.

**Liturgy adapted** from the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

**Cover image:** "Let All Creation Dance", by Gwynn Garrity. Inspired by Luke 2:10, Matthew 2:10, Isaiah 9:2-3, Psalm 148, Isaiah 55:13-13. Artist Statement: This quilt square collage shows the ripple effect of joy dancing throughout all creation. In the nativity story, the birth of Christ is meant to bring universal joy and good news to all people.

**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](http://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.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski  
Congregation Coordinator: Jessica Pisarski  
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak  
Organist: Doug Fletcher  
Custodian: Bob Hill

A Stephen Ministry Congregation  
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# Central Presbyterian Church

First Sunday after Christmas

**Lessons and Laughter**

Sunday, December 28, 2025



**Welcome**

**Prelude**

"Brint a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" (arr. Chip Davis)