Prelude "Veni, Veni Emmanuel" (arr. Davis)

***Call to Worship** Kathy Meeks

Leader: On Sundays and Mondays,

People: on good days and bad days,

Leader: early in the morning and very late at night,

People: here in this room, and out in the world, God, we long for you to break in.

Leader: Meet us in this space.

People: Surprise us with your presence.

Leader: Fill this room with your good news.

People: With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

***Hymn** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" 83

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

People: Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

***Congregational Response** "Glory to God" (back cover Hymnal)

***Passing of the Peace**

Prayer for Illumination

**** Please stand as you are able.***

First Reading Lamentations 3:55-57

Children's Time

Second Reading Luke 1:5-13

Message "What If the Silence Isn't Empty?" Rev. Wil Reinowski

***Hymn** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" 347

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles Creed*

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

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Minute for Mission

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 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (arr. Paul Manz)

***Doxology** 606

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

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn** "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" 85

***Benediction**

Postlude "Postlude on "Adeste Fidelius"" (arr. Young)

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.

In Our Prayers

We pray for the family of Terry Phillips as he enters the Church Triumphant. We also pray for the family of Kitty Mills as she enters the Church Triumphant. We also pray for our Special Care friends, especially Nancy Clerget and Bill Hatfield.

Central Happenings

SUNDAY – November 29
10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary/Online)
WEDNESDAY – December 2
10:00 a.m. Women of the Word [WOW] (Fitch Parlor)
12:00 p.m. Charity Knitters (Discipleship)
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rehearsal Hall)
THURSDAY – December 3
10:00 a.m. Library Team (Fitch Parlor)
All college students are invited to have lunch on Central.

Please sign the congregational letters on the back table for the families of Terry Phillips and Kitty Mills.

The greeters this morning are Gary and Colleen Neal.
If you haven't sent in your pledge for 2027 yet, please do so soon using the link on the church website or a pledge card on the back table.
A meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Central Presbyterian Church has been duly called by the Session, to take place on December 6, 2026, immediately following worship (11:00 a.m.), please plan to attend.
Liturgy adapted from the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. **Cover image**: "Zechariah and the Angel", by Hannah Garrity. Inspired by Luke 1: 5-13. Artist Statement: The Angel's message flows into Zechariah's space with the same power that invoked his fear. I imagine Zechariah lets his guard down then, and listens to her in shock. I imagine he takes in her words, lets his arm down, meets her gaze, and holds onto joy, despite his ongoing apprehension.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski
Office Administrator: Jessica Pisarski
Historian & Ed. Coordinator: Sean Lutes
Choir Director: Scott Hines
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak
Organist: Doug Fletcher
Custodian: Bob Hill

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Central Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

What Do You Fear?

November 29, 2026

Welcome

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

People: We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together. We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

Leader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us. Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.