



**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas**



**Sunday, July 12, 2020**

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) [Psalm 119:105-112]**

**Zac:** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**People:** I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

**Zac:** I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

**People:** Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.

**Zac:** I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

**People:** The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

**Zac:** Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

**People:** I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

**CALL TO CONFESSION PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you fulfilled the just requirement of the law and set us free from sin and death. Now your Spirit dwells within us, training us in life and righteousness. We confess the many ways we despise this heritage. We are shallow in faith, so that trials uproot us, and we fall away from you. We are deep in ambition, anxiety, and greed, so the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke off the life and Spirit you graciously bestow. We hear, but make**

**little effort to understand. We receive your gifts, but bear scant fruit for you. O God, forgive us, renew us, tend to us, that we might incline our hearts to you and live in submission to your will. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Zac: As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. God's grace is poured out upon us day by day.

Come to the water and remember your baptism. Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People: Amen.**

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:**

**Genesis 25:19-34**

<sup>19</sup>These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, <sup>20</sup>and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. <sup>21</sup>Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. <sup>22</sup>The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup>And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." <sup>24</sup>When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup>The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. <sup>26</sup>Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. <sup>27</sup>When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. <sup>28</sup>Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

<sup>29</sup>Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. <sup>30</sup>Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) <sup>31</sup>Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." <sup>32</sup>Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup>Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup>Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:**

**Matthew 13:1-23**

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!” <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup>For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>13</sup>The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ <sup>14</sup>With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: ‘You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. <sup>15</sup>For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them.’ <sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. <sup>17</sup>Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it. <sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Rev. Timothy Reeves

*Every Christian's Indispensable Fashion Accessory*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

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 Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell  
the third day he rose again 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 Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the  
forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You each are encouraged to give voice to your concerns or to name those for whom you love and pray.)

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

(We use debts and debtors)

## FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**\*\*POSTLUDE**

*Go forth into the world rejoicing. Love and serve the Lord.*

**Those who are able, please stand.**

**\*\* Please be seated and remain for the postlude if you can.**

**Lay Reader: Zac Cosner**



Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church, where we come together to celebrate God's love, nurture growth, share our faith and serve the needs of others. This congregation opens wide its doors and hearts and welcomes all in the name of Jesus Christ.

## Announcements

We will continue with online worship services throughout the month of July. We miss all of you and pray that we see each other face to face soon!

The Presbytery of Arkansas has canceled all Summer youth trips. Fortunately, the Presbytery is offering to cover the \$100 cost of Montreat @ Home! It'll take place from July 20-24th. Registration is free and will include a free shirt!

It will take place online and is for rising 9th graders to Graduated Seniors and interested Adult Leaders. If you have an interested youth, please contact Zac Cosner.

Archives of our Online Services can be found on Facebook and YouTube! Links to each are on our website, CentralPrespb.com

### **Pulpit Supply**

Rev. Timothy Reeves

### **Secretary**

Justine Anton

### **Sound Board Operator**

Zac Cosner

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### **Session**

#### **Class of 2019**

Zac Cosner

Mosley

Brad VonTungeln

Logan Mosley

#### **Class of 2020**

Laura Cosner George

Suzy VonTungeln

Denise Mosley

Jemmie Moseley

#### **Standing Committee Moderators:**

Zac Cosner

VonTungeln

Jemmie Moseley

George Mosley

Denise Mosley

Laura Cosner

Budget & Finance Suzy

Fellowship & Nurture

Missions & Outreach

Building & Grounds

Education

Worship & Music