

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

This Christmas Eve we will be having our Candlelight Service at 5pm.

Thursday Night Bible Study is back! We start at 6:30pm and we hope to see you there!

Sunday School starts at 9:50am every Sunday Morning. Please join us for this time of learning!

You can catch live broadcasts of our services or watch them after the fact on our Facebook page! Find the link on our website, [CentralPresPB.com](http://www.CentralPresPB.com)

Pastor Rev. Jai D. Kwak
Secretary Justine Anton
Sound Board Operator Zac Cosner
Organist Young Ju Oh
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Session

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Laura Cosner	Zachary Cosner (Clerk)
Denise Mosley	George Mosley
Suzy VonTungeln	Danny Reeves
Jemmie Mosley	

Standing Committee Moderators:

Zac Cosner - Budget & Finance
Suzy VonTungeln - Fellowship & Education
Denise Mosley - Missions & Outreach
George Mosley & Danny Reeves
-Building & Grounds
Laura Cosner & Jemmie Moseley
-Worship & Music



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
(870) 879-9074
Tuesday, December 21, 2021
Blue Christmas Service



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Jai Kwak

LISTENING TO A SONG

“Comfort and Joy”

by Tasha Layton

CALL TO CONFESSION

Today we come looking for the Christ Child.

We come, bringing our hurts, our worries, our fears.

We come seeking relief from pain. With the psalmist of old, we say,

“O Lord, you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low.”

HYMN # 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. Jai Kwak

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND CONFESSION

O Lord, we long for your coming into our world

**We long for your justice
We long for your peace**

Creator, Redeemer, your people turn to you, for you alone have the power to heal.

**O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
Hear our prayer.**

(Silence Prayer)

Peacemaker, Pain-bearer, restore the shalom of the earth burdened by the pollution of our sin, and guide all nations in the way of your wholeness.

**O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
Hear our prayer.**

(Silence Prayer)

Healing God, we reach out to touch the hem of your grace, restore those whose bodies, spirits, minds, and lives are broken by sickness, circumstance, or grief

**O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
Hear our prayer.**

(Silent Prayer)

God of mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent season for ourselves, and for our families and friends who live with the struggles of illness and the pain of loss.

**O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
Hear our prayer.**

We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair, and promise.

Amen.

RECITATION OF A POEM

If Tomorrow Starts without me

See Insert

(David Romano / Recited by Tom O'Bedlam)

HYMN #314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

**1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

**Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**3 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]**

**4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]**

**5 Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. [Refrain]**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1–5 (NASB95)

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
- 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

MEDITATION “THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS”

INTERCESSION FOR HEALING

The God of strength moves within us;

the God of courage hears our distress.

The God of hope reveals wholeness to us;

the God of healing touches us when we are broken.

When the pain overwhelms us, when the burden is too heavy,

we turn to our God, who is sustaining and redeeming.

When there is loneliness, when there is isolation,

we turn to our God, who is loving and present.

For God created us, redeemed us and sustains us,

and we are not alone. Lead us in your ways, O God, and bring us your healing touch.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND HEALING RITUAL WITH OIL

(You are invited to come forward and ask for a candle to be lighted for yourself or a loved one. If you chose, you may then also be anointed with oil. This anointing on your forehead is a very old gesture used to give strength on the journey of being healed and healing others. Pray in silence until all people have returned to their seat.)

HYMN # 836 “Abide With Me”

BENEDICTION

May the power and the mystery of our God go before us, to show us the way, shine above us to lighten our world, lie beneath us to bear us up, walk with us and give us companionship, and glow and flow within us to bring us joy.

POSTLUDE