



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Ministers / **All of us**
Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**
Worship Leader / **Chaunzey Tenbrink**
Music Director & Accompanist / **Linda Smith**
Song Leader / **Gayle Hassler**

Prelude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

* Opening Hymn

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
Bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

* indicates to rise in body or spirit.

Bold indicates to speak or sing in unison.

Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word was in the beginning with God.

Through the Word, all things came into being.

The Word of God was a person, a flesh-and-bone human
who lived and walked among us.

**The Word is Jesus, Son of God and Human One,
Prince of Peace and Word Made Flesh.**

Come together, children of God,
and worship the one who dwelt among us.

Let us worship the Word through whom all things have life!

Greetings and Announcements

Passing the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Mark and Melanie Ralston

Congregational Hymn

"Light Our Way to Hope"

Light, Light, Light of the World, Light, Light, Light of the World,
Light, Light, Light of the World, Light our way to you

2. Hope, Hope, Hope of the World,
Hope, Hope, Hope of the World,
Hope, Hope, Hope of the World,
Light our way to hope.

* indicates to rise in body or spirit.

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Prayer of Confession

Word of God made flesh,
 long before stories were told or books were written,
 the Word was with God and the Word was God.
 But we have worshiped other words.
 We have mistaken the Word made flesh
 for words that divide and dehumanize us.
 We repent and return to the beginning,
 to the Word through whom all other words came into being.
Forgive us, God. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer of Hope

Word of God made flesh,
you came to us in Spirit as you hovered over the waters of creation.
You came to us in bodily form in the very human person of your son, Jesus.
Throughout history and time,
we have never been truly alone.
You abide with us in every tear we shed,
every joy-filled laugh, and every deep breath of sleep.
During this Advent season,
we remember that you know our human needs,
our hunger, our thirst, our need for connection,
our exhaustion, and even our boredom.
We have hope because our humanness
no longer separates us from you, O God. Amen.

The Reading

John 1:1-5, 14a

- ¹ In the beginning was the Word
 and the Word was with God
 and the Word was God.
- ² The Word was with God in the beginning.
- ³ Everything came into being through the Word,
 and without the Word
 nothing came into being.
 What came into being

- ⁴ through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.
- ⁵The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light....
- ¹⁴The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.

Special Music

" 'Tis the Gift to be Simple"

Central Choir

Message

Rev. Gage Church

Affirmation of Hope

Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the hope of our faith:
From our first breaths of life to our final moments before death,
our bodies tell God's story of hope.

We are created to attach, to connect and to live in community.

This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in the dependence of babies
who know help is coming when they cry.

We are created to need one another.

This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in children who ask, explore, experiment and wonder.

We are created to enjoy creation.

This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in teenagers who notice injustice, waste and hypocrisy.

We are created to advocate for one another.

This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in middle age, when questions of identity
and purpose find depth and discovery.

We are created to be distinctly and uniquely beloved.


This is our hope.

We hear the story of hope in our older adults who pursue passions formed
by decades of wisdom and experience.

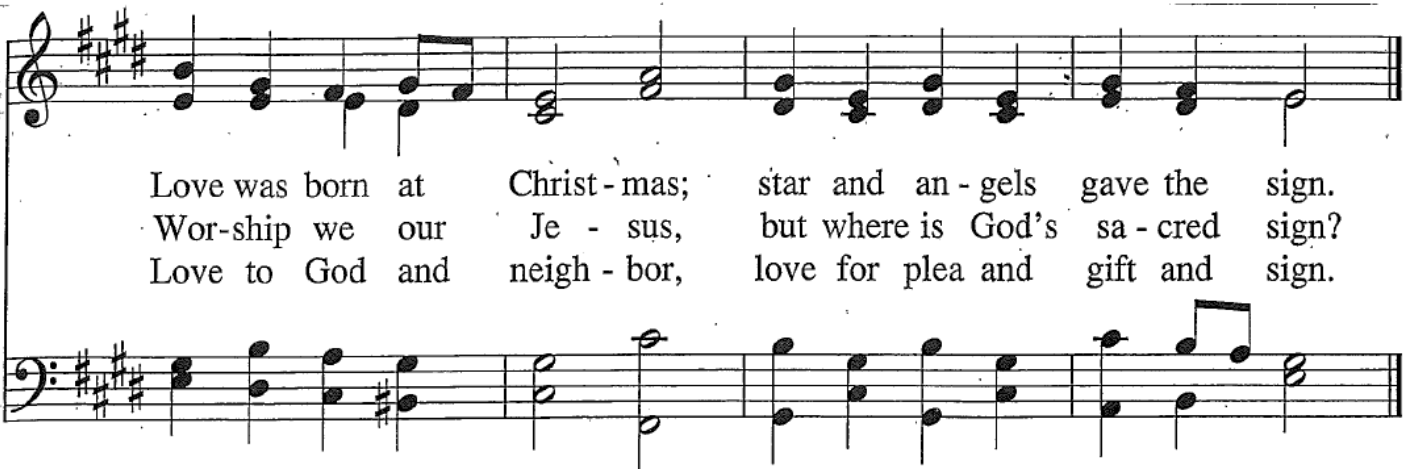
We are created to attach, to connect, to live in community.

This is the hope of our faith.

*** Congregational Hymn**
"Love Came Down at Christmas"



1 Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;



Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
 Wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where is God's sa - cred sign?
 Love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Joys and Concerns

We respond with "Lord, hear our prayer."

Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread,
 and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,
 for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

***Bold** indicates to speak or sing in unison.*

Offering

God is good! **All the time!**
 All the time! **God is good!**
 Let us share the goodness of our God.

*A note to visitors: Your presence here today is a gift to us.
 We are "centralchurchtopeka" on Venmo.*

* Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God for all that love has done;
 Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen**

* Prayer of Dedication

**Word of God made flesh,
 you care about our earthly needs,
 physical resources and tangible generosity.
 We give these offerings and gifts today
 as a physical response in worship.
 Our thoughts and prayers are vast and powerful,
 and we accompany them with this act of giving
 because you call us to love you with every part of ourselves.
 Bless these gifts to the glory of the Word of God. Amen.**

* Christmas Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold him, born the King of angels. O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!	Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
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* Benediction

* Closing Hymn

"Light Our Way to Hope"

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Light Our Way to Hope". The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). The melody is written in 4/4 time. Chord symbols 'C' and 'G' are placed above the staff at various points. The lyrics are written below the staff: "Hope, Hope, Hope of the World, Hope, Hope, Hope of the World,". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Hope, Hope, Hope of the World, Light our way to Hope". Chord symbols 'G' and 'C' are also present above this staff.

Postlude

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"



SAVE THE DATES

Pride Book Club / Wednesday, Nov. 30 @ 6:30 PM

Game Night / Friday, Dec. 9 @ 6 PM

Caroling / Saturday, Dec. 10 @ 11 AM

Christmas Cookie Exchange / Sunday, Dec. 11 after church

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols / @ 5 PM

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Central Congregational Church UCC

5221 SW West Drive, Topeka, KS 66606
centralchurchtopeka.org

785-235-2376
info@centralchurchtopeka.org

Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month

Moderator: **Brenda Soldani**
Moderator-Elect: **Linda Wilder-Towery**
Treasurer: **Chaunzey Tenbrink**
Clerk: **Gayle Hassler**
Church Council At-Large Members:
Maggie Eddy, Ottie Reed, Becky Wedeking

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Pastor Gage can be reached at pastor@centralchurchtopeka.org or 385-205-9985.

Celebrating over 25 years of being an Open and Affirming Congregation!

We affirm Christ's call to love God with all that we are and love our neighbors as ourselves, to invite, receive and value all people regardless of gender, race, age, culture, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic circumstance, family configuration or difference in ability.



www.facebook.com/CentralTopeka
Can't make it to church on Sunday morning?
We stream live on our page!