



# Central Presbyterian Church

DELIBERATELY DIVERSE & FULLY INCLUSIVE

200 East Eighth St., Austin, TX 78701    [www.cPCAustin.org](http://www.cPCAustin.org)    [central@cpcaustin.org](mailto:central@cpcaustin.org)    512-472-2445

Office hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

March 17, 2024

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

11:00 am

\* Worshippers are invited to rise in body or spirit.

If you do not wish to be seen on the live video feed for the service, please sit in a pew under a balcony.

## Prelude

Nathan Quiring

## Welcome and Announcements

Katheryn Barlow-Williams

## Passing of the Peace

## Introit

## Call to Worship

One: When a grain of wheat falls to the ground, it multiplies and nourishes the earth.

**All: Likewise, when we die to selfishness, God's love expands within and among us.**

One: Through worship and faithful service, we find spiritual nourishment to share.

**All: With faith and love we discover new life, even in the midst of painful losses.**

One: Come then my friends, let us celebrate God's empowering love in worship.

## \*Hymn #64: I Long for Your Commandments

WOHL DENEN, DIE DA WANDELN

## Prayer of Confession

Gary Gibbs

**All: God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others. Our false self is driven by insecurity. We don't trust you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength and then get stuck in bitterness, fear, and apathy. To move on with life, we must let go of the past, embrace the present, and follow God's vision for our future. Forgive us, God, for our lack of faith. Transform us and raise us to new life so we can follow your call to a joyful life of service. Hear us now as we come to you in silent prayer. (*Silent reflection*)**

## Assurance of Pardon

One: Christ's love is constant. Failure and loss are never the end of our story. Love always begins a new chapter of life. Trust that you are forgiven; believe new life awaits you; and follow the path of love.

**All: Thanks be to God. We are free to live fully and love generously.**

## \*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (Hymn #582)

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

## Scripture Readings

Psalms 119:9-16

John 12:20-33

Pew Bible, O.T. Pg. 535

Pew Bible, N.T. Pg. 88

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**

*Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee*  
K Lee Scott

Garrison Moore &  
Nathan Quiring

**Children's Sermon**

**Baptism of Avae' Slade and Harloe Slade**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon**

*Letting Go to Let Love Grow*

Katheryn Barlow-Williams

**\*Hymn #531: Seed, Scattered and Sown**

SEED SCATTERED

**The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

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, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos,  
santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga a nosotros tu reino, hágase tu voluntad  
así en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día  
y perdónanos nuestras deudas, así como  
nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación,  
mas líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder  
y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

**Offering**

Giving is a form of worship and we offer our gifts to bring Christ's hope to our world. For ways to give, see information following the order of worship.

**Offertory Music**

*Lullaby*  
Jason Robert Brown

Ivy Leone &  
Nathan Quiring

**\*Doxology: Hymn #606 †**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OLD HUNDREDTH

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn #767: Together We Serve**

SAN ANSELMO

**\*Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response: Hymn #372**

AZMON

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

**Postlude**

Nathan Quiring

† Some prefer the words, "Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" to "Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost".

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 17 – “Around Town” meet-up - *Trial by Jury* at 3:00 pm at the Dell Jewish Community Center
- March 22 & 23 – *Un Cuento de Luces y Sombras*, Operetta by Carlos Cordero, info at [LOLAustin.org](http://LOLAustin.org)
- March 28 – Maundy Thursday Dinner & Worship Service in Smoot Hall – beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- March 31 – Easter Sunday!
- April 28 – Youth Group Meet-Up



# Easter Sunday

Central Presbyterian Church

**6:45 a.m.** Sunrise Service in the Courtyard  
**9 a.m.** Easter Breakfast in Smoot Hall  
**9:30 a.m.** Children’s Carnival  
**10 a.m.** Flowering of the Cross  
**11 a.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary



## This Week's Birthdays

March 20 - Paula Estes  
March 21 - Barbara Anderson  
March 21 - Caleb Foree  
March 21 - Christina Kerr  
March 22 - Nathan Quiring  
March 23 - Andy Mendieta

[celebrations.org](http://celebrations.org)

## Ongoing Weekly Gatherings

- Sundays at 9:15 a.m.—Lectionary Bible Study
- Wednesdays at noon—Check n’ Chat (ZOOM)
- Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Central Mission
- Thursdays at noon—Noonday Concert Series



## Weekly Announcements

Use the QR code to view this week’s e-blast and more details on CPC events!

### Church Staff

Pastor ..... Katheryn Barlow-Williams  
Director of Music Ministry ..... Carlos Cordero  
Organist/Pianist ..... Nathan Quiring  
Office Manager ..... Lisa Korson  
Bookkeeper ..... Cindy Mikel

Neighbors Program Manager..... Andi Brauer  
Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator Robyn Greer  
Custodian ..... Lety Mendieta  
Groundskeeper ..... Brandon Lairson

Parish Associates: Jim Collier, Tom Estes, Sarah de la Fuente & Mary Swierenga

### Ways to support CPC’s ministries:

- Text "2024stewardship", "Pastor", "Neighbors", or "Cpcdonations" to 53555
- To give via Debit/Credit Card use the QR code by pointing your phone’s camera to scan it
- For PayPal and Zelle donations, use [bookkeeper@cpcaustin.org](mailto:bookkeeper@cpcaustin.org)
- Mail a check to the church office, 200 E 8th Street, Austin, TX 78701
- To give in person, ushers will be located at the doors of the sanctuary following the service



# Living the Word...

## *A Blessing When the World is Ending*

Look, the world  
is always ending  
somewhere.  
Somewhere  
the sun has come  
crashing down.

Somewhere  
it has gone  
completely dark.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the gun,  
the knife,  
the fist.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the slammed door,  
the shattered hope.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the utter quiet  
that follows the news  
from the phone,  
the television,  
the hospital room.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with a tenderness  
that will break  
your heart.

But, listen,  
this blessing means  
to be anything  
but morose.  
It has not come  
to cause despair.

It is simply here  
because there is nothing a  
blessing is better suited for  
than an ending,  
nothing that cries out more  
for a blessing than when a  
world is falling apart.

This blessing  
will not fix you,  
will not mend you,  
will not give you  
false comfort;  
it will not talk to you  
about one door opening  
when another one closes.

It will simply  
sit itself beside you  
among the shards and  
gently turn your face toward  
the direction from which the  
light will come,  
gathering itself  
about you as the world  
begins again.

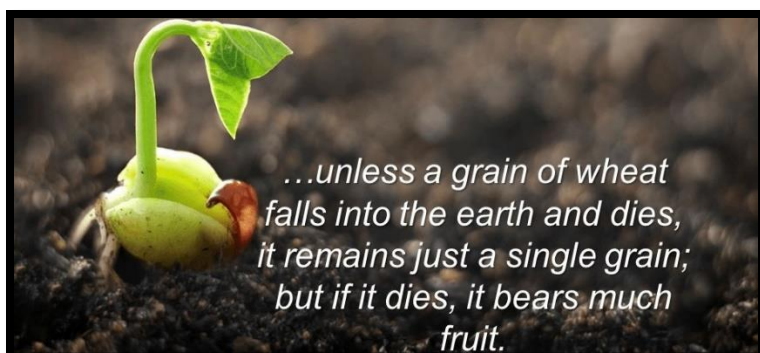
~ Kate Bowler

## To Discuss or Ponder:

In this passage we are presented with three ways of considering the relationship between life and death. First, Jesus refers to what we might call the natural order of creation: all that lives dies, and life often comes from what has died, as in the example of the grain of wheat. In a sense, it is not up to the grain of wheat to live or die; both life and death, and then life from its death, are inherent in how it was created. Second, Jesus refers to the fact that we, so much more than a grain of wheat, have the blessing and burden of choice. The message is clear: while we cannot choose to live or die any more than the grain of wheat, we can choose the manner of our living. The better choice is to live in such a way that we are like the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and brings new life that “bears much fruit.” Third and lastly, Jesus refers to his own death, a death that is entirely his choice, but is in the context of a life lived to the glory of God. By bringing these three layers or levels of existence together (the grain of wheat, human beings, Christ), this passage reminds us that we are that we are called to exercise our extraordinary gift of free will to choose how we live, to follow Christ’s example in loving God and our neighbor.

- If you are like a grain of wheat, what or where is your patch of earth in which your faithful choices might bring forth new life? Where can you make a difference today?
- Jesus says that he will “draw all people to [himself].” How does Jesus draw you?
- Our [American] culture is consumed with self-preservation - what would it mean to truly live for God and others? How can we move beyond our fear of death from “let this cup pass from me” to “thy will be done”- from “save me from this hour” to “glorify your name.”

~Adapted from The Rev. Phillip Lien



# 64 I Long for Your Commandments

(Psalm 119)



1 I long for your com - mand - ments; your judg - ments all are  
 2 With - out your lamp to guide me I wan - der from the  
 3 O God, I love your knowl - edge, more pre - cious than pure

just. With - in your words is wis - dom, your teach - ings  
 way. With - out your laws and pre - cepts I stum - ble  
 gold. It sat - is - fies like hon - ey, a sweet - ness

un - der - stood are com - fort to my spir - it's need and  
 in the dark. Your un - der - stand - ings are my hope that  
 on my tongue. It leads me to sal - va - tion's door where

in the night my so - lace. Your stat - utes are my song.  
 I may run in free - dom. Your ways are my re - lease.  
 you have spread your ta - ble. O, lead me to your home.

Although this paraphrase is based on only a small part of Psalm 119, it incorporates many of the synonyms that weave through this extended acrostic psalm celebrating God's Law: commandments, judgments, words, teachings, wisdom, statutes, laws, precepts, understandings, ways.

## Seed, Scattered and Sown

531

*Refrain* C *All* G Am F G C C7

Seed, scat-tered and sown; wheat, gath-ered and grown;

F G C Am Dm7 G G7

bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the liv-ing bread of God.

C G Am F G C C7 F G

Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands; one cup that is

C Am Dm7 C Dm7 G C *Fine*

shared by all, the liv-ing cup, the liv-ing bread of God.

Am *Leader or All* G F C Dm G C

1 Is not the bread we break a shar-ing in our Lord?  
 2 The seed which falls on rock will with-er and will die.  
 3 As wheat up-on the hills was gath-ered and was grown,

E Am F G G7 *to Refrain*

Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ out-poured?  
 The seed with-in good ground will flow-er and have life.  
 so may the church of God be gath-ered in-to one.

This hymn draws on very old Christian materials, the earliest being Jesus' parables about sowers and seed (Matthew 13/Mark 4/Luke 8). Stanza one paraphrases 1 Corinthians 10:16, and stanza three uses imagery from the *Didache*, a major Christian document from the early 2nd century.

## Together We Serve

767



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,  
2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,  
3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,  
4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.  
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
We of - fer a home to those who will come,  
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.  
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.  
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.  
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.