



CENTRAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Prayer Focus: Cessation of Child Hunger

Welcome to worship at Central!

In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome to worship at Central where it is our mission to follow Jesus by loving God and loving our neighbors. I, along with the rest of our clergy team, Rev. Ann Kovan and Rev. Meg Jiunnies, are grateful you've chosen to make Central a part of your day today. We have prayed for you and planned for you, and hope you have a meaningful worship experience. Whether it's your first time worshipping with us or you're a lifelong member, we welcome any opportunity to speak with you about how to connect with God through Central. If it is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a connect card and bring it to the Welcome Center where you will receive a gift from the church. Please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us this week if we can be of service. Once again, welcome!

Rev. Thomas W. Smith,
Senior Pastor

Midweek Lenten Service

Join us this Wednesday at 12:00 PM in the Sanctuary for a Lenten Service with guest speaker Rev. David McManus, Pastor of Manning United Methodist Church. Prior to the service a brief service of Holy Communion will take place at 11:30 AM in the Ingram Chapel. Lunch will be served in Spears Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. The cost is \$7.00 per person if you register and pay in advance and \$8.00 if you pay at the door.

Music Note

Gerre Edward Hancock (1934–2012), composer of today's opening voluntary, was an American organist, improviser, and composer. Hancock was Professor of Organ and Sacred Music at the University of Texas at Austin. A native of Lubbock, Texas, he received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his Master of Sacred Music degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York, from which he later received the Unitas Distinguished Alumnus Award. Among other positions, Hancock served as Assistant Organist at Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, New York, and Organist and Master of the Choristers at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City from 1971 to 2004. He served on the faculty of The Juilliard School in New York City and taught improvisation on a visiting basis at the Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University in New Haven, CT, and The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Hancock was heard in recital in many cities throughout the United States and worldwide. On occasion he performed in duo recitals with his wife, Dr. Judith Hancock.

Order of Worship

GATHERING

The People Come Together in the Lord's Name

PARISH CONCERNS

(The service of worship begins. The prelude is offered on behalf of the entire congregation. Quiet meditation and private prayer are encouraged.)

OPENING VOLUNTARY Gerre Hancock
Air

*CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*(*All who are able are asked to stand.)*

*GREETING

Leader: Let us give thanks for the steadfast love of God,

People: and the wonderful works done for us.

Leader: Let us offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,

People: and tell of God's deeds in songs of joy.

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 108 EBENEZER
God Hath Spoken by the Prophets

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 880 The Nicene Creed

*GLORIA PATRI 71 GREATOREX
Glory Be to the Father

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(All offer prayers of confession in silence.)

KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord, Have Mercy*) (*sung three times*) TAIZÉ KYRIE



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

PROCLAMATION

God's Word is Shared

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Numbers 21:4-9
Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM John Stainer
God So Loved the World

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 2:1-10

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

*ACT OF PRAISE 830 Psalm 107:1-9, 33-43

CHILDREN’S TIME

(Children are invited to the chancel. An offering will be received from the children during Children’s Time. After Children’s Time, children ages 2nd grade and older will return to their seats and children ages 3K to 1st grade will go with a leader and may be picked up in room #145 or #147 after the service.)

*HYMN 292 WONDROUS LOVE
What Wondrous Love Is This

*GOSPEL LESSON John 3:14-21
Leader: The Word of the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Thomas Smith
Familiar Words

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING IN FAITH **We Respond to God’s Word in Worship**

OFFERTORY C. Hubert Parry
Chorale Prelude on “Martyrdom”

*DOXOLOGY 95 OLD 100th
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING FORTH **We Respond to God’s Grace with Our Lives**

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 365 MOODY
Grace Greater than our Sin

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Assisting in Worship

Preacher Rev. Thomas Smith
Liturgist Rev. Meg Bryce Jiunnies
Children’s Time Brandie Love
Organist/Choir Director Dr. Don Grice
Organist/Choir Accompanist Beverly Hazelwood
Lay Readers Maggie Peebles, Chris Peebles
Acolyte Caroline Lee
Crucifer Sophia Norris
Chancel Choir

IN MEMORY OF

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Betty Searcyby United Methodist Women

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Nell Starksby Donald K. Anderson, Jane & Larry Hubis

John Orr, Mike Ballengerby Laura & Finley Clarke, Marie & Frederick Neely

John Orr, Mike Ballenger, Jerome Davis, Gloria Brown, Curt Ham, Nell Starksby Betty & Dan Hardaway

John Orrby Carolyn & Joe Younginer

Mike Ballengerby C. Pierce Campbell

HANDBELL MINISTRY

Nell Starksby Cheney Meiere

MUSIC MINISTRY

Nell Starksby Debi & Panos Kalaritis

PRAYER GARDEN

Betty Searcyby Ronda & David Alderman

YOUTH MINISTRY

W.A. Croneby Debi & Panos Kalaritis

IN HONOR OF

YOUTH MINISTRY

Coaches Ed Love and Will Kingby Wendy & Jim Richardson

SPECIAL GIFTS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRYby Anna Reaves Yarborough

DISCRETIONARY FUND & YOUTH MINISTRYby Kriste & Chuck Lindler

YOUTH MINISTRYby Elizabeth Pulukuri

2024 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2024 General Operating Budget

Approved Budget for 2024 \$2,318,729.52

Received Week of 03-03-2024 \$28,267.65

Received YTD \$336,797.13

2024 Capital Building Fund

Received Week of 03-03-2024 \$665.00

Received YTD \$6,368.50

2024 Special Gifts

Received Week of 03-03-2024 \$1,501.23

Received YTD \$13,730.14

2024 Endowment Gifts

Received YTD \$565.00

ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR MARCH 03, 2024

Sanctuary Service 227

The Well Service 89

Service of Prayer & Holy Communion 15

Lent Service 65

Children's Sunday School 52

Adult Sunday School 90