

# Central Church

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany                      11:00 a.m.                      January 21, 2024**

Central Church is a Christian fellowship whose mission is:

**To Know Christ ~ *as Savior and Lord,*  
To Share Christ ~ *by our Words and Actions.***

## Welcome

## Announcements, Prayer Cards, and Connect Cards

**\*Intro Song** Goodness of God

**\*Greeting One Another**

**\*Song of Centering** Reckless Love

**Call to Worship** (Responsively):  
Leader: Baptism is symbolic of our being consecrated to God.

**People: Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change.**  
Leader: Through baptism we are branded as followers of Jesus Christ.

**People: Through Baptism the world knows we are followers of Jesus Christ.**  
**All: Lord, let our worship of You today be a reaffirmation of our commitment to follow and trust in Your Son. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer** (In Unison): **Holy Spirit, descend upon us this morning as You descended upon Jesus on the day of His baptism. Heal our brokenness, and seal us in Your love. May we continue to swim in the cleansing waters of our baptism, and may the world clearly know us as Jesus followers. May we honor You this morning through our worship and praise. Amen.**

**Prayers of Celebration and Care**  
**The Lord’s Prayer** (*“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...”*)

**\*Song of Worship** King of My Heart

**Scripture Lesson** Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSV)  
Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is My Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

## Children’s Message

**Sermon:** “Branded”                      Pastor Thom Bowsher

## Pastoral Prayer

## Time of Reflection

**\*Song of Sending/Tithes and Offerings** Our God

**\*Benediction** \*Please stand as you are able.

### Check It Out!

- If you are a new visitor to Central, we invite you to stop by the **Welcome Center** and receive a **Welcome Gift** and fill out a **Connect Card** with your information so we can stay in contact with you! We hope you enjoyed your visit! Come back soon!
- If you are in **need of a Bible**, please ask for one from a Welcome Team Member at the Welcome Center.
- A **nursery** is available for children ages 4 and younger South of the Main Entrance.
- **Assistive Listening Devices** are available. **See an usher.**

---

Lead Pastor - Rev. Thom Bowsher  
Youth Coordinator – Levi Waddell  
Office Manager - Jennifer Aden

[pastorthom@milbankcentral.com](mailto:pastorthom@milbankcentral.com)  
[levi.waddell@milbankcentral.com](mailto:levi.waddell@milbankcentral.com)  
[office@milbankcentral.com](mailto:office@milbankcentral.com)

Children's Ministries and Communications Coordinator – Ginny Tostenson  
[ginny.tostenson@milbankcentral.com](mailto:ginny.tostenson@milbankcentral.com)

Custodians - Todd & Peggy Morton  
[www.milbankcentral.com](http://www.milbankcentral.com)

605-432-4766