

PARK CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Jump for Joy” by Corby Eisbacher

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 18, 2022 10:30 AM**

---

**Chiming of the Hour**

*The ringing of the bell invites us to quiet our hearts & minds as we gather for worship.*

**Words of Welcome & Announcements**

*Welcome to worship at Park Central Presbyterian Church!  
May you experience God's grace and love within the worship service.*

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

“Ave Maria”

Bach/Gounod  
arr. Mark Hayes

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

My soul magnifies the Most High.  
**My spirit rejoices in God my savior.**  
For the Mighty One has done great things,  
**and holy is God's name.**

**\*HYMN 12** People, Look East

BESANÇON

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God,**

**we come together to tell the stories of your steadfast love.**

**Yet we often find it hard to believe so many of your promises.**

**Have mercy on us ...**

*(Silence is kept)*

**Be with us in our yearning as**

**we confess to you the doubts, worries, and fears that hold us back....**

*(Silence is kept)*

**Be with us as we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child.**

**We confess to you our failings as we seek to follow him alone....**

*(Silence is kept)*

**O God of mercy, hear our prayers of confession this day.**

**Remind us of your love and the deep calling**

**you place upon our lives.**

**Give us your grace this day and**

**send us out refreshed and renewed**

**to follow your ways. Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*GLORIA (#23)**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo;*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

GLORIA

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Response:

*From generation to generation we have shared the gospel story*

*Of a baby in a manger, who was born in Bethlehem.*

*Hope is winging, Peace now ringing, Joy we're singing, Love he's bringing.*

*We see God in one another, as we learn to love each other.*

Tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY (Polish melody)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.**

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 146:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Most High their God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry;

who sets the prisoners free.

<sup>8</sup> God opens the eyes of the blind,  
lifts up those who are bowed down,  
and loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> God watches over the stranger  
and upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but brings the way of the wicked to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> God will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

Großer Herr, O Starker König

from *Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248*

Kent Bradshaw, *baritone*

J. S. Bach

*Großer Herr, o starker König,  
Liebster Heiland, o wie wenig  
Achtest du der Erden Pracht!  
Der die ganzen Welt erhält,  
Ihre Pracht und Zie erschaffen,  
Muss in harten Krippen schlafen.*

Great Lord, O mighty King,  
Dearest Savior, O how little  
You regard earthly splendor!  
He who maintains the whole world,  
And created its glory and adornment,  
Must sleep in a hard crib.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

Luke 1:39-55

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,  
<sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of the Messiah comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by God."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Most High,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> who has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is God's name.

<sup>50</sup> God's mercy is for those who revere God  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> God has shown strength with God's arm,  
and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> God has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> God has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> God has helped God's servant Israel,  
in remembrance of God's mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise God made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever."

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

Sarah McTyre

## **SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

# **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

## **INVITATION TO ENGAGEMENT**

*You may place donations to the church in the offering plate as you exit. You may also send in a check or click Donate on the church website.*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN 15** Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

## **\*BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

"Noël Dijonnais" (Entrons tous dans l'étable)

arr. Olive Nelson Russell

*During the postlude, some people sit or stand quietly and listen to the music.  
Others prefer to connect with those around them or greet visitors as they leave.  
Please feel free to make the transition between worship and re-entering the world  
in whatever way is meaningful to you.*

*Please join us in the Gathering Hall following worship  
for a Christmas party with snacks, refreshments, and gifts for our  
Household Closet, a ministry which helps those starting over  
to get what they need for their home.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Najwa Webster

Childbirth can be both life-giving and life-threatening.  
This birth for which we wait is no different.

It will give us life and threaten the life that we have come to know.  
We see in it both manger and cross. We know from it both salvation and judgment.  
We find in it both the beginning and end of all things.

~ Br. James Koester

The liturgy this morning is adapted from  
*Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion and LiturgyLink*

Park Central has accepted the invitation  
from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to become a Matthew 25 congregation.  
We are answering Christ's call to become even more a church of action,  
where God's love, justice, and mercy shine forth and are contagious.

To learn more about Matthew 25, please visit [pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)

- Robert Allen.....Director of Arts and Technology
- Brigid Boyle..... Parish Associate
- Sarah McTyre.....Pastor
- Sandra Murphy.....Interim Organist
- Kenneth Pfeffer.....Building Manager
- Michael Sayles..... Finance Manager
- Briana Vaught.....Office and Communications Manager

Church Office Phone: (315) 475-1677 • 504 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202-1922  
Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, M-Th  
Church Office Email: [office@parkcentralchurch.org](mailto:office@parkcentralchurch.org)  
Website: [www.parkcentralchurch.org](http://www.parkcentralchurch.org) • Facebook: Park Central Presbyterian Church  
Instagram: [parkcentralsyr](https://www.instagram.com/parkcentralsyr) • TikTok: [parkcentralchurch](https://www.tiktok.com/@parkcentralchurch)