

PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

What Do You Fear?

INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT



EVEN IN OUR FEAR, WE
ARE CALLED FORWARD

Third Sunday of Advent

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025 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

“Sing of Mary” (PLEADING SAVIOR)

arr. Robert Hebble

Dan Blumenthal, *violin* and Sandra Murphy, *organ*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

Mary said, “How can this be?”

We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God's invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

***HYMN 104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Courageous God,
you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,”
we often hide our face.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we hope,
we pray, amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of God came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Sovereign God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But God said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Most High.”

⁹ Then God touched my mouth and said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN 101 No Wind at the Window

COLUMCILLE

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! God is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid,

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be infertile. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of God; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Brigid Boyle

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Some Children See Him

Michael Spencer, *baritone*

Alfred Burt

*Some children see him lily white,
The Baby Jesus born this night.
Some children see him lily white,
With tresses soft and fair.
Some children see him bronzed and brown,
The Lord of heaven to earth come down.
Some children see him bronzed and brown,
With dark and heavy hair.*

*Some children see him almond-eyed,
This Savior whom we kneel beside.
Some children see him almond-eyed,
With skin of yellow hue.
Some children see him dark as they,
Sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.
Some children see him dark as they,
And ah! They love him too!*

*The children in each different place
Will see the Baby Jesus' face
Like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace,
And filled with holy light.
O lay aside each earthly thing,
And with thy heart as offering,
Come worship now the Infant King.
'Tis love that's born tonight!*

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 100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo'" (BWV 729)

J. S. Bach

Sandra Murphy, *organ*

*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 the Household Closet Christmas party.*

Announcements for December 14, 2025

Scan here to donate!

Saturday, December 20

2:00 pm Organ Christmas concert

Sunday, December 21

10:30 am Worship service

11:30 am Fellowship hour



Organ Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 20, 2:00 pm - Sandy Murphy presents a casual hour of Christmas and Advent favorites on the organ at Park Central Presbyterian Church. Come when you can, leave when you need to, and enjoy some classics alongside some modern settings of traditional carols. Free and open to the public.

Christmas Eve

On Wednesday, December 24, we will hold a special Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5:00 pm. We will retell the story of Christ's birth and sing and listen to some favorite Christmas hymns. We hope you'll join us for the celebration, either in person or online.

That Their Light May Always Shine

A Candlelight Service to Remember Children who Have Died

December 14, 7:00 pm

Park Central Presbyterian Church

You are invited to bring a photograph or other memento to display. Registration is not required, but appreciated. You can register at cnypibr.com.

If you are unable to attend, the website will also you to submit a child's name to be read aloud at the service. We will be remembering children of all ages.

Sponsored by Brigid Boyle, GC-C, CNY Perinatal and Infant Bereavement Resources, CompassionNet, and the Kara Fund

Sound Bath

The next sound bath will be Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 pm. If you would like to walk the labyrinth, please come at 6:30. Wear comfy clothing, and come ready to relax!

We worship a God who exists beyond the bounds of language. We are part of a creation that is vibrant in its diversity. We hope that the language used in today’s worship reflects those inclusive and expansive ideals. Some traditional prayers and hymns may contain gendered terms for God; please feel free to substitute more expansive terms.

As a member of the PC(USA)’s Matthew 25 movement, Park Central works toward building congregational vitality and dismantling structural racism. 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.

Robert Allen.....Director of Arts and Technology
Brigid Boyle..... Parish Associate
Sarah McTyre.....Pastor
Sandra Murphy.....Keyboard Musician
Kenneth Pfeffer.....Building Manager
Briana Vaught.....Office and Communications Manager
Justin Vaught..... Finance Administrator/Bookkeeper

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