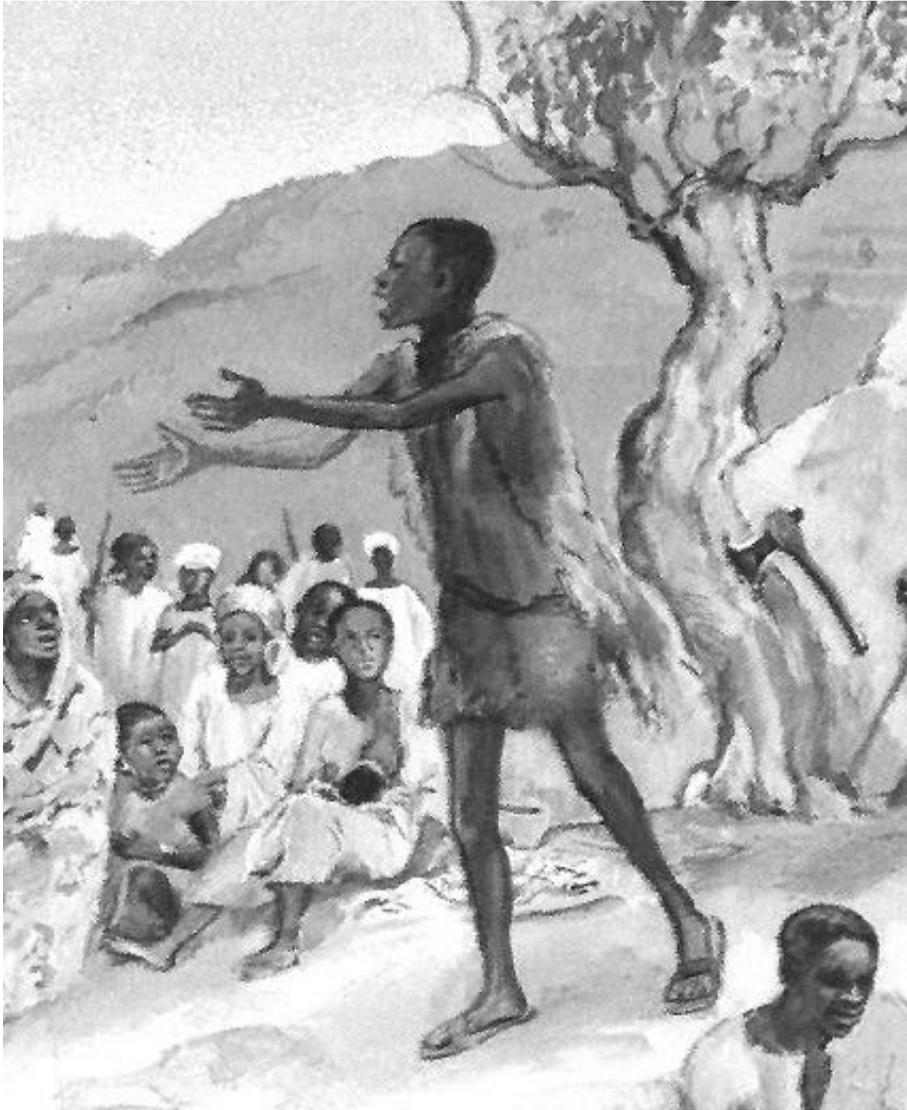


PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JESUS MAFA, *John the Baptist preaching in the desert*

Second Sunday of Advent

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 4, 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

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (VENI EMMANUEL)
Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

arr. Michael McCabe

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God of timeless grace, you fill us with great expectation.
Make us ready for the message that prepares the way
that with uprightness of heart and holy joy
we may eagerly await the birth of Jesus.

***HYMN**

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
Please see hymn insert

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Laboring God,
 with axe and winnowing fork
 you desire to clear a holy space in our lives.
 We confess that we often get tangled up
 tending to our own desires and concerns
 and have little room to consider the needs of our neighbors.
 We even allow hatred and despair
 to grow too easily in our lives.
 Forgive us, we pray.
 Clear away all that keeps us from bearing good fruit
 and make our hearts ready for shoots
 of hope, peace, and justice to grow
 through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.
God will meet you in your fear. And bring peace both far and near.*

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

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of God shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and reverence for God.

³ His delight shall be in reverence for God.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for those who are poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Michael Spencer, *tenor*
Dan Blumenthal, *violin*
Greene/Lowry

Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am
Mary, did you know?

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
² “Repent, for the realm of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham and Sarah as our ancestors,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to them. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. That one will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² With winnowing fork in hand, the one who is coming will clear the threshing floor and will gather the wheat into the granary, but will burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Elder Craig Williams

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY OF RECOGNITION

O God, Creator of all things visible and invisible and Lord of history, You have called us by the voice of the Church to serve Jesus Christ and revealed to us this work for which we have been chosen.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Spirit, You have given us the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be a unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and we have accepted them to be God's Word for us.

Thanks be to God.

Wonderful Counselor, You have enlisted us in Your service and instructed us by the church and her confessions so that we might lead others, live in friendship, love our neighbors, and work for reconciliation in the world.

Thanks be to God.

Lord of the church, Your servant, the Reverend J. Andrew McTyre, stands today among us after serving long and well in your church. His life and ministry have revealed the risen Christ to many, provided many personal satisfactions, warmed individual hearts in close relationship, and brought self-worth and dignity through love shared.

Thanks be to God.

Good and gracious God, Your servant Andrew led and taught us "*Faith in the City*;" helped us learn "who we are" and "whose we are;" showed us how to be "open, welcoming, and inviting to our neighbors;" and supported us in our journey to "*Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.*"

Thanks be to God.

With God's help and love, may your life be blessed and your labors fruitful as you offer yourself gladly in the service of our common Lord. God, in whom we live and have our being, continue to give Your servant Andrew a full measure of Your grace. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

*HYMN 11 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

***BENEDICTION**

**May God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.**

**May God give you the grace
never to sell yourself short,
grace to risk something big for something good,
grace to know that the world is now too dangerous
for anything but Truth,
and too small for anything but Love.**

**So may God take your minds and think through them,
may God take your lips and speak through them,
and may God take your hearts and set them on fire.**

**In the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Fantasia in C Major” BWV570

J. S. Bach

*Please join us in the Gathering Hall following worship
for snacks, coffee, and fellowship.*

*The artwork on the front of our bulletin is from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project
of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tennessee.*

*JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a
Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and
adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their
interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist..... Briana Vaught
Greeters David Aronson and Sara Hahne

May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

~ Romans 15:13

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

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

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Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, M-Th

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Website: www.parkcentralchurch.org • Facebook: Park Central Presbyterian Church

Instagram: [parkcentralsyr](https://www.instagram.com/parkcentralsyr) • TikTok: [parkcentralchurch](https://www.tiktok.com/@parkcentralchurch)