

PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE WORK OF
IMAGINATION

Accountable Leadership

Fourth Sunday in Lent

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 15, 2026 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

A Place of Rest

David Paxton

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come into God's presence,
you who imagine and you who seek,
you who disrupt and you who repair.

By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

Come into God's embrace,
you who seek a good shepherd,
you who long to be known and protected,
you who are far off and you who are near.

In Christ, we gather as one flock.

Come into God's presence,
singing for joy and for justice.

**We gather to pray and to worship.
To God be the glory!**

***HYMN 757** Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, our Good Shepherd,
we confess we often look to unwise leaders to guide us,
whether in work, play, government, faith, or daily living.
We find ourselves enamored by personalities and power
and tend to overlook poor choices and bad boundaries.
Forgive us for pursuing folly over wisdom.
Forgive us for choosing flashy leaders
over leaders you have gifted with experience and discernment.
Forgive us for not holding our leaders accountable.
And when you call us into leadership roles,
help us rise to the occasion with integrity and faithfulness.
Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***BE THOU MY VISION**

SLANE

*Great God of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Ezekiel 34:1–10

¹ The word of God came to me: ² Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: To the shepherds—thus says the Most High God: Woe, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? ³ You eat the fat; you clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatted calves, but you do not feed the sheep. ⁴ You have not strengthened the weak; you have not healed the sick; you have not bound up the injured; you have not brought back the strays; you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. ⁵ So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and scattered they became food for all the wild animals. ⁶ My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of God: ⁸ As I live, says the Most High God, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of God: ¹⁰ Thus says the Most High God: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN 753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

THE SECOND LESSON

John 10:1–18

¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and the sheep hear the voice of the shepherd who calls each sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ After bringing all of them out, the shepherd goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know the shepherd’s voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will

run away because they do not know the voice of strangers.”⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Sarah McTyre

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Michael Spencer, *baritone*; Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

I Shall Not Want

Audrey Assad & Bryan Brown

*From the love of my own comfort, from the fear of having nothing,
From a life of worldly passions, deliver me, O God.
From the need to be understood, and from a need to be accepted,
From the fear of being lonely, deliver me, O God.*

*And I shall not want, no, I shall not want.
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want.*

*From the fear of serving others, oh, and from the fear of death or trial,
And from the fear of humility, deliver me, O God. Yes, deliver me, O God.*

*And I shall not want, no, I shall not want.
When I taste Your goodness, I shall not want.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER BRENT HARRIS

QUESTION TO NEW MEMBER

Do you promise to be a faithful member of Park Central Presbyterian Church by sharing in the worship and service of this congregation, by nurturing your faith in prayer and study, and by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ wherever you may go?

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

We pledge to give you our support and care as you enter the membership of this church. We will pray with you and for you. We will worship with you and serve with you. We will share your burdens and joys, so that together we may all grow in faith and love as followers of Jesus Christ.

WELCOME

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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 738** O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Reflection

Douglas E. Wagner

*We will be holding a congregational meeting following worship.
All are welcome!*

Are you new to our church?

We would love to connect with you!
Please scan the QR code for our
digital welcome pad!



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Najwa Webster
Fellowship HourCarolyn Corriders and Tom Packard

“This is the work of imagination: to envision a world remade by mercy, to trust that healing is possible even in the shadow of empire, and to practice love that outlasts despair. Lent calls us into this holy labor—not as a solitary act, but as a communal path toward transformation.”

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.

Brigid Boyle..... Parish Associate
Sarah McTyre.....Pastor
Sandra Murphy.....Music Director
Kenneth Pfeffer.....Building Manager
Briana Vaught.....Office and Communications Manager
Justin Vaught..... Finance Administrator/Bookkeeper

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