

PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 2, 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

“Woodland Peace” (Op. 71, No. 4)

Edvard Grieg, arr. David Paxton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Wherever God is, love is.

Wherever God's love is, hope is.

Hope is here

because God is present.

Hope and love are God's essential transformative forces.

Let us worship with joy and intention

that we might fulfill God's dream for us and for the world.

***HYMN 476** O Worship the King, All Glorious Above
Stanzas 1, 2, 4, and 5

LYONS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we pray
for the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;
for the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;
for the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;
for the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us.
Have mercy on us, O God.
Draw us out of our fear, away from false security and shallow beliefs,
and into the abundance of life you offer.
Remind us that your ways call us to love our neighbors
with acts of compassion and justice. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*LIVE INTO HOPE

TRURO

*Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.*

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

Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what God says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Most High,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for God has a case against God's people,
and will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of God."

⁶ "With what shall I come before God
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before God with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Most High be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ God has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does God require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Kent Bradshaw, *baritone*

I Sing the Mighty Power of God (ELLACOMBE)

arr. Brenda Portman

*I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule by day;
The moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
He formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where're I turn my eyes,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the skies.*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glory known,
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
And everywhere that we can be, thou, God art present there.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 4:14-19

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of God is upon me,
who has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor,
who has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of God’s favor.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

Please see hymn insert

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

arr. Todd Beaney

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 snacks, coffee, and fellowship.

Announcements for February 2, 2025

Scan here to donate!

Sunday, February 9

- 9:00 am Bible study (virtual)
- 10:30 am Worship service
- 12:30 pm Mission Study gathering



Sound Bath

The next few sound baths will be on Tuesdays, starting with one on February 11 at 7 pm. You can arrive early, at 6:30, to walk the labyrinth before the sound bath begins. All are welcome!

An Invitation from the Mission Study Task Force

Please join us after worship on February 9 from 12- 2 pm. This is part of a series of congregational gatherings designed to help us understand who we are as a congregation and where and what God is calling us to be next. Lunch will be provided. All ages are welcome!

Hope Is Here!: Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community

Our worship series for Epiphany is based on Luther Smith's book, *Hope is Here!* His faithful and challenging work will guide us to encounter the immediacy and the power of hope in scripture, stories, spiritual practices, and our own lives.

Luther Smith reminds us that hope is essential to the needed personal and social transformations that prepare us for sacred opportunities to live into God's dream of justice and beloved community. Each week, we will explore spiritual practices of hope that can align us with God's yearning for us and the world.

- January 19 Hope is Here! Introduction
- January 26 Contemplative praying
- February 2 Prophetic remembering
- February 9 Crossing identity boundaries
- February 16 Transforming conflict
- February 23 Celebrating community

Luther E. Smith Jr. is Professor Emeritus of Church and Community, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He is the author and editor of influential books on Howard Thurman, Christian community, and spiritual practices.

**Please rise in body or spirit*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Sara Hahne
Fellowship Hour the Langley family

Remembering is essential for engaging current and coming realities
with the power of truth and courageous witness.

~ *Luther E. Smith, Jr.*

Today's prayer of confession is adapted from a prayer
written by the Rev. Beth Merrill Neel.

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
Lenora Joyner-Hayes Finance Administrator/Bookkeeper
Sarah McTyre.....Pastor
Sandra Murphy.....Keyboard Musician
Kenneth Pfeffer.....Building 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

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

Instagram: [parkcentralsyr](https://www.instagram.com/parkcentralsyr) • TikTok: [parkcentralchurch](https://www.tiktok.com/@parkcentralchurch) • Bluesky: [parkcentralchurch.org](https://bsky.app/profile/parkcentralchurch.org)