

PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Courageous Choice by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art

Third Sunday of Advent

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 11, 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

“Wexford Carol” (Traditional Irish Carol)

arr. Vicki Collinsworth

Dan Blumenthal, *instrumentalist*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Into the dry and desolate place of our lives,
God brings salvation.

The desert rejoices and blossoms.

The wilderness teems with life.

Sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Let us come into God's presence with singing!

***HYMN 13** Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,

every day we have opportunities to be gracious,

to assume the best in others,

to give the benefit of the doubt.

Every day we have opportunities to choose your ways,

but so often we do not.

**Please rise in body or spirit*

12/11/22

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**Comparison and critique take over our thoughts.
Fear and greed rise up in our hearts.
Assumptions and insecurities overwhelm our graceful intentions.
Forgive us for forgetting that all people belong to you.
Forgive us for forgetting that we are called to be
people of love and grace.
Humble us and refocus us
that we may follow your way of life and truth.
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 can choose a better way. And find joy in every day.*

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 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of God,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
who will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
God will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then those who cannot walk shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless shall sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of God shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Please see hymn #48 for text

The Park Central Pick-Up Choir

arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose Mary to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a child whom you will name Jesus, for he will save the people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet:

²³ "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of God commanded, and married her, ²⁵ but he had no marital relations with Mary until she had borne a child; and Joseph named the child Jesus.

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 8** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (STUTT GART)

arr. Jon Spong

*We will be holding a Christmas Hymn Festival this afternoon at 1:00.
All are welcome to attend. Between worship and the event, there will be a
simple lunch available in the Dining Hall downstairs.*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Anita Wagner

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

~ Henri J.M. Nouwen

The liturgy this morning is adapted from *A Sanctified Art* and *Call to Worship*

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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