

PARK CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



MATTHEW 25

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
JULY 31, 2022 10:30 AM  
MATTHEW 25: CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS  
DISMANTLING STRUCTURAL RACISM:  
CENTER VOICES FROM THE MARGINS

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**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.*

*Please maintain social distance from other household groups.*

## **WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

“Preludes”

Frédéric Chopin

Op. 28, No. 6 in b minor, and Op. 28, No. 4 in e minor

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

When God restored the fortunes of Zion,

**we were like those who dream.**

Then our mouth was filled with laughter and shouts of joy.

**We rejoiced: “God has done great things for us.”**

May those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
**come home with joy, carrying their sheaves.**

**\*HYMN 335**    Though I May Speak

O WALY WALY

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Forgive us, O God,  
from being centered on ourselves.  
Teach us to remember others -  
to notice our neighbors,  
to listen to their voices,  
and to pray for their needs.  
May we be so caught up in love  
for those for whom we pray,  
that we may feel their needs as keenly as our own,  
and pray for them with imagination,  
sensitivity, and knowledge.  
We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **\*GLORIA (#576)**

*Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Alleluia, alleluia!*

### **GLORIA (TAIZÉ)**

## **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

1 Samuel 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Hannah prayed and said,

“My heart exults in God;  
my strength is exalted in my God.  
My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in my victory.

<sup>2</sup> “There is no Holy One like you,  
no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.

<sup>3</sup> Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for our God is a God of knowledge,  
and by God actions are weighed.

<sup>4</sup> The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble gird on strength.

<sup>5</sup> Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,  
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.  
The barren has borne seven,  
but the one who has many children is forlorn.

<sup>6</sup> God kills and brings to life;  
God brings down to Sheol and raises up.

<sup>7</sup> God makes poor and makes rich;  
God brings low, and also exalts.

<sup>8</sup> God raises up the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with royalty  
and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are God's,  
and on them God has set the world.

<sup>9</sup> “God will guard the feet of the faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;

for not by might does one prevail.  
<sup>10</sup> God's adversaries shall be shattered;  
the Most High will thunder in heaven.  
God will judge the ends of the earth;  
God will give strength to God's king,  
and exalt the power of the anointed."

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**  
Morning Has Broken

Sandra Murphy, *piano*  
arr. John Turner

Hymn tune: Bunesan

**THE SECOND LESSON**

Matthew 15:21-28

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Rabbi, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before Jesus, saying, "Rabbi, help me." <sup>26</sup> He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Rabbi, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *No Matter What*

Marissa Saunders, Elder

**SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## DEDICATION OF GIFTS

*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 385** O God We Bear the Imprint of Your Face

SONG 1

## \***BENEDICTION**

## POSTLUDE

“The Lord God Has Spoken It”

David Paxton

*During the postlude, some people sit or stand quietly and listen to the music. Others find it helpful 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 for refreshments  
in the Gathering Hall after the worship service.  
All are welcome.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Ben Merchant

Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us,  
so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities.

Jesus calls us to serve "the least of these" - not as a group to be pitied,  
but as people who are deeply loved by Jesus.

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.

Through this initiative, we have pledged to concentrate on  
building congregational vitality and dismantling structural racism.

To learn more about Matthew 25, please visit [pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)

Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from  
*Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living.*

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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