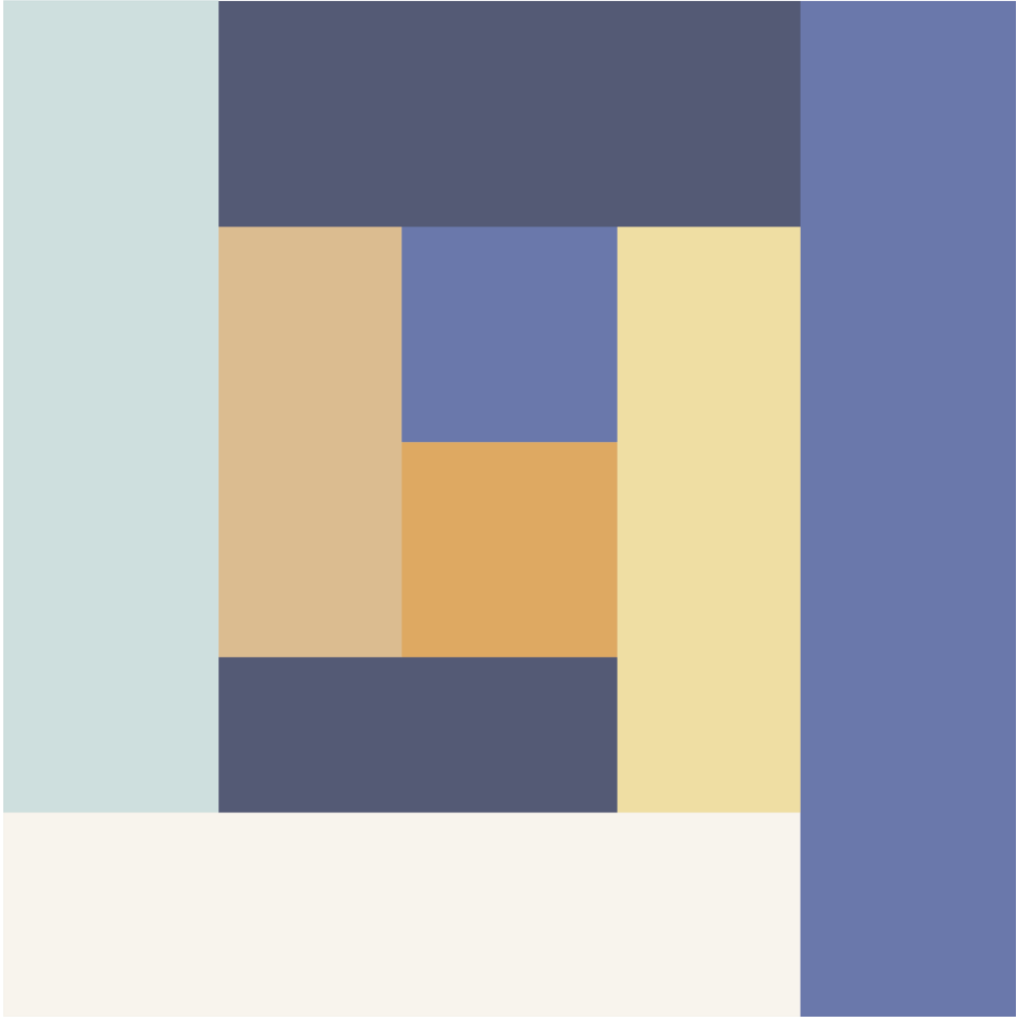


PARK CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Second Sunday of Advent*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 8, 2024 10:30 AM

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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.*

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (ES IST EIN ROS)  
Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

arr. B. C. Dockery

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

In a world that is lonely,  
**we will save seats for each other.**  
In a world that is anxious,  
**we will light candles against the gloom.**  
In a world that is weary,  
**we will sing songs of joy and truth.**  
We are not alone.  
**For here in this place, God is weaving us together.**  
Light the candles! Sing with joy!  
**Let us worship God together!**

**\*HYMN 3** Comfort, Comfort You My People

PSALM 42

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

*pg. 2*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of love,  
we have tried to make our own way.  
We have tried to kindle our own faith.  
We have tried to be just fine on our own.  
We confess that we make life harder than it has to be  
when we curl up into ourselves  
because of our pride, our fear,  
our hurt, or our grief.  
Forgive us and call us back into relationship  
with you and with each other.  
Strengthen us with love and joy  
so that together we may go out  
into this weary world  
to heal, to help, and to proclaim good news  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **\*GLORIA**

*Gloria, gloria,  
In excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria,  
Alleluia, alleluia!* (Sung twice)

TAIZÉ

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

### **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**

Ruth 1

<sup>1</sup> In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons.

<sup>2</sup> The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup> But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup> Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that God had considered God's people and given them food. <sup>7</sup> So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May God deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> God grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup> would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of God has turned against me." <sup>14</sup> Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.  
<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.  
May God do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

<sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

<sup>19</sup> So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” <sup>20</sup> She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi (meaning pleasant);  
call me Mara (meaning bitter),  
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.  
<sup>21</sup> I went away full,  
but the Almighty has brought me back empty;  
why call me Naomi  
when God has dealt harshly with me  
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

<sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

Sheep May Safely Graze

Kent Bradshaw, *baritone*

J. S. Bach, arr. Phyllis Tate

*Sheep my safely graze serenely where a shepherd guards them well.*

*So the nation ruled in wisdom knows and shares the many blessings*

*Which both peace and plenty bring.*

*Sheep my safely graze serenely where a shepherd guards them well.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. <sup>10</sup> For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. <sup>11</sup> Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup> And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

Rev. 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 34** In Bethlehem a Child Was Born

DISCOVERY

\***BENEDICTION**

## POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

arr. Wayne L. Wold

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

## Announcements for December 8, 2024

Scan here to donate!

### Monday, December 9

7:00 pm Sound bath

### Wednesday, December 12

11:15 am Staff meeting

### Sunday, December 15

9:00 am Bible study (virtual)

10:30 am Worship service

11:30 am Household Closet Christmas party



### Sound Bath

The next sound bath will be Monday, December 9 at 7 pm. All are welcome!

### That Their Light May Always Shine

A Candlelight Service to Remember Children who Have Died

Sunday, December 8, 7 pm at Park Central.

You are invited to bring a photograph or other memento to display. Registration is not required, but appreciated. To register, visit [cnyipibr.com](http://cnyipibr.com). If you are unable to attend, the website will also allow you to submit a child's name to be read aloud at the service.

Sponsored by Brigid Boyle, GC-C, CNY Perinatal and Infant Bereavement Resources, CompassionNet, and the Kara Fund

### Household Closet Christmas

The Household Closet Christmas Party will be after worship on Sunday, December 15. We will collect new and gently used items for the household closet leading up to that date. This is a great time to look around for sales on small appliances like toaster ovens, microwaves, and coffee makers! Pots and pans and kitchen utensils are also great additions to the closet. Please bring your gifts wrapped! We also need volunteers to bring party snacks!

### Christmas Eve

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 pm. All are welcome!

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist..... Michael Barbour

True peace must be anchored in justice and love...  
a peace that remains quiet, subtle, and deep,  
touching the stillness within us  
that allows us to reach out to others.

~ Desmond Tutu

Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from *A Sanctified Art: Words for the Beginning*

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](http://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

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

Church Office Email: [office@parkcentralchurch.org](mailto:office@parkcentralchurch.org)

Website: [www.parkcentralchurch.org](http://www.parkcentralchurch.org) • Facebook: Park Central Presbyterian Church

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