

PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Favored One” by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art

First Sunday of Advent

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024 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

“Praise His Greatness” (Hyfrydol/Great Is the Lord)
Sandra Murphy, *piano*

arr. Mark Hayes

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God says,

“Do not be afraid.”

God says,

“I have called you by name.”

God says,

“I will be with you.”

God says,

“You are precious and honored in my sight.”

At the beginning of this season,

may we wrap ourselves in these words.

May we begin again.

Let us worship our Holy God!

***HYMN 2** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Affirming God,
Your first words to creation were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary.
You spoke belonging through Christ.
How often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it?
How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear?
You have told us over and again that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.
Forgive us when we forget this truth.
Open our hearts in this holy season.
Create space in us to hear and believe the good news of your love.
In Christ's name we pray. 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, the power, and the glory
forever. Amen.**

**Please rise in body or spirit*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! God is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of that reign there will be no end."
³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be infertile. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of God; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Advent Lullaby

Megan Hook, *soprano* and Beth Langley, *alto*
Carol A. Muehlig

*Lullaby, child to be born,
Thou shalt be carried safe and warm,
Gently cradled, kept from harm,
Until I hold thee in my arms.*

*Lullaby, my only one,
Sleep, thy passing's yet to come
From heaven to earth to heaven
To us thy short time given.*

*Lullaby below my heart,
Ever within, ever a part
Now thy life is mine to tend,
And ours shall be for thee to mend.*

*Lullaby for life to come,
My joy no less, no less my son
If less a king and poor,
I could not love thee more.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7

- ¹ But now thus says the Most High,
the one who created you, O Jacob,
the one who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the Most High your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Sarah McTyre

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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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

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord God, our Savior...

... we join the ancient and eternal hymn:



We praise you for the gift of Jesus ...

... we proclaim again the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died; Christ is ri-sen; Christ will come a - gain. Christ has died;

6
Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit...
 ... until you gather us at your table in glory.
Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

**Mighty God, holy is your name.
 We thank you for gathering us at your table
 and feeding us with the bread of life.
 As we leave this table
 to go to the many places where you call us,
 send your Spirit to accompany us,
 so that we may share in your work of love:
 lifting up those who are laid low,
 showing mercy to all in need of kindness,
 and feeding the bodies and hearts
 of all those who are hungry. Amen.**

***HYMN 9** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Improvisation on ‘Veni Emmanuel’” arr. Blumenthal/Murphy
 Dan Blumenthal, *violin* and Sandra Murphy, *organ*

**Please rise in body or spirit*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist..... Briana Vaught
Fellowship Hour Sapey family

Holy God,
we thank you for those who have acted with fierce bravery,
trusting their call and your words of blessing.
Their faith and conviction inspire our own.

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

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

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