

PARK CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 27, 2022 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.*

*Please wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of distance from other household groups.*

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

“Music for Midwinter”

I'lana S. Cotton

III. Listening to Snow

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

God's reach is endless.

**God's mercy is unstoppable.**

God's grace is lavish.

**God's love is constant.**

God's wisdom is vast.

**God's hope is stubborn.**

God is here -

**with us, among us, moving through us.**

Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

**\*HYMN 184**    How Blest Are Those

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*There will be no congregational singing. Only the soloist will sing.*

*How blest are those whose great sin  
Has freely been forgiven.  
Whose guilt is wholly covered  
Before the sight of heaven.  
Blest those to whom our Lord God  
Will not impute their sin,  
Whose guilt has been forgiven,  
Whose heart is true again.*

*“I graciously will teach you  
The way that you should go.  
And with My eye upon you,  
My counsel you shall know.  
But be not then unruly,  
Or slow to understand;  
Be not perverse, but willing  
To heed My wise command.”*

*The sorrows of the wicked  
In number shall abound,  
But those who trust our own God  
Great mercy shall surround.  
Then in the Lord be joyful,  
In song lift up your voice;  
Be glad in God, you righteous;  
Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have strayed from your ways.  
Like the Prodigal Son, we waste our inheritance  
and squander the bounty of your good gifts.  
You give us neighbors to love,  
but we often pursue self-centered ambitions.  
You give us the commandments that lead to  
human flourishing,  
but we break your law and forsake your love.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Draw our wandering hearts back to you  
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.  
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

*\*Please stand if you are able to comfortably*

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## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## 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

Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup> While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let all who are faithful  
offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters  
shall not reach them.

<sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me;

you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.

<sup>10</sup> Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

<sup>11</sup> Be glad in God and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### MUSICAL MEDITATION

Kent Bradshaw, *baritone*

Mache dich, mein Herze, rein

J. S. Bach

from *The Passion According to St. Matthew*

*Mache dich, mein Herze, rein,  
ich will Jesum selbst begraben.  
Denn er soll nunmehr in mir für  
und für seine süße Ruhe haben.*

Make thou clean, my heart, from sin,  
Unto Jesus give thou welcome.  
So within my cleansed breast shall He rest  
Dwelling evermore within me.

*Welt, geh aus, laß Jesum ein!*

World, depart, let Jesus in!

### THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>11b</sup> “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and

traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.<sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.<sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.<sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.<sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!’<sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;<sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’”<sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.<sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’<sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.<sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;<sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.<sup>26</sup> He called one of the servants and asked what was going on.<sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’<sup>28</sup> Then the elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.<sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working for you like a person enslaved, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.<sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’<sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.<sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Brigid Boyle

## SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## SHARING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

*The offering plate will not be passed. You may place gifts to the church in the offering plate as you exit.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*HYMN 366** Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

ST. CATHERINE

*There will be no congregational singing. Only the soloist will sing.*

*Jesus, Thy boundless love to me  
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;  
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,  
And reign without a rival there!  
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live,  
Myself to Thee entirely give.*

*O Love, how gracious is Thy way!  
All fear before Thy presence flies;  
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away,  
Where'er Thy healing beams arise.  
O Jesus, nothing may I see,  
Nothing desire, or seek, but Thee.*

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

“Toccata (Ionian)”

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

*Please fill out the contact tracing slip and place it and the pen in the box as you exit.  
Take this bulletin with you when you leave.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Susan Stinson  
Soloist .....Kent Bradshaw

I have to make a leap of faith to let trust and gratitude have a chance.  
The leap of faith always means loving without expecting to be loved in return,  
giving without wanting to receive, inviting without hoping to be invited,  
holding without asking to be held.  
And every time I make a little leap,  
I catch a glimpse of the One who runs out to me and invites me into his joy,  
the joy in which I can find not only myself,  
but also my brothers and sisters.

~ Henri J.M. Nouwen

Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion* and from *Full to the Brim: An Expansive Lent, A Sanctified Art*.

Robert Allen.....Director of Music  
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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