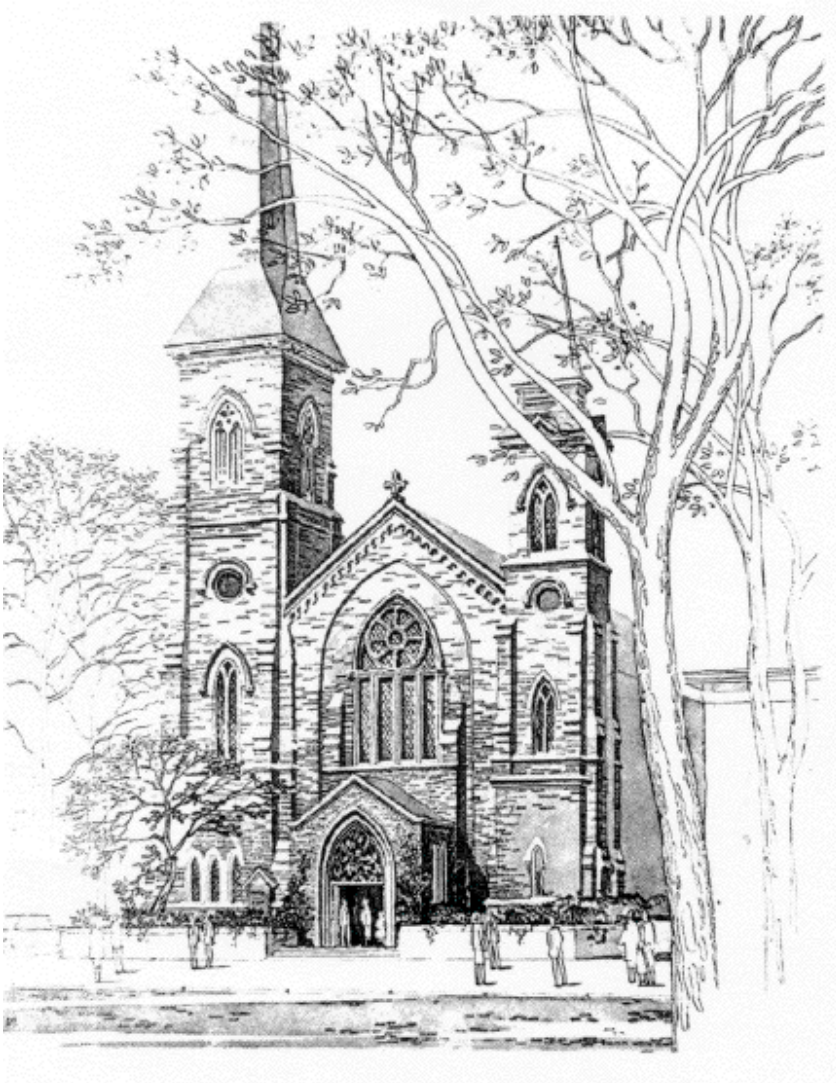


PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 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

“Largo” from the opera *Xerxes*

George Frideric Handel
arr. Nicolaj Hansen

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God calls us into a life of abundance and joy.

God calls each one of us by name.

God washes us in grace and breaks the power of death.

Let us come together to worship God and to pray.

***HYMN 466** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
stanzas 1, 2, and 4

AZMON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,

**we confess that, like the first disciples,
we often set our minds on human things
rather than divine things.**

It is hard for us to trust your loving care,

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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**and we grab for more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes,
we shrink from living as your followers.
Forgive us, we pray.
Meet us with mercy.
Call us once more,
and give us the courage we need
to follow the way of Jesus. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another

with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "God says vengeance is mine; I will repay." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Down in the River to Pray

Treble Ensemble
Traditional
arr. Jace Wittig

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good old way,
And who should wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.
O sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O sisters let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good old way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.
O brothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O brothers let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good old way,
And who should wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.
O fathers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O fathers let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

*As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good old way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.
O mothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O mothers let's go down, down in the river to pray.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told the disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with the angels in the glory of God, and then will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in power and glory.”

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

THE BAPTISM OF OLIVER GEORGE SMITH

See insert

*HYMN 304 Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Chorale Prelude on SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT” arr. Bernard Wayne Sanders

*During the postlude, some people sit or stand quietly and listen to the music.
Others prefer 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 in the Gathering Hall following worship
for a special time of celebratory fellowship.*

Announcements for September 3, 2023

Monday, September 4

Church office closed

Saturday, September 9

11:00 am Church cookout

Sunday, September 10

9:00 am Bible study (virtual)

10:30 am Worship service

11:15 am Congregational meeting

Back to School

All are invited to welcome the students at Dr. King Elementary School back for a new year of learning on Wednesday, September 6! Starting at 9, we will greet the students as they arrive, offering encouragement and stickers to each one. Let the office know if you are interested in attending and if you would like to carpool.

Church Cookout

The church cookout will be Saturday, September 9 from 11-2. We will have food, ice cream, face painting, lawn games, and more! Please let the office know if you are willing and able to help with the cookout – more information can be found in the Park Post.

Book Buddies

We are hoping to once again be involved in a reading program at Dr. King Elementary School! Please contact Ben Merchant or visit cnybookbuddies.org for more information.

Congregational Meeting

We will be holding a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 10 after worship. All are welcome to attend, and all active members are strongly encouraged to come so we can meet quorum and conduct our business! We will be receiving annual reports and electing officers to boards and committees at this meeting.

Arts at Park

Our next Arts at Park event will be a Sound Bath with Park Central soloist Megan Hook held on September 18 at 7pm. There is more information in the Park Post and on the church website.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Ben Merchant

God of mystery and grace,
move in our lives, renew our minds,
soften our hearts,
direct our feet,
that we may follow Jesus more faithfully.

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

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

Church Office Phone: (315) 475-1677 • 504 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202-1922

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

Church Office Email: office@parkcentralchurch.org

Website: www.parkcentralchurch.org • Facebook: Park Central Presbyterian Church

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