

PARK CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**JANUARY 26, 2025 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**

“Hail, Star of Heaven” (Ave, Maris Stella)

Edvard Grieg

Dan Blumenthal, *violin* and Sandra Murphy, *piano*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Wherever God is, love is.

**Wherever God's love is, hope is.**

Hope is here

**because God is present.**

Hope and love are God's essential transformative forces.

**Let us worship with joy and intention**

that we might fulfill God's dream for us and for the world.

**\*HYMN 465** Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

TÖKYŌ

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

*pg. 2*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, source of all life,  
Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer.  
We come before you in need of healing:  
The healing of our bodies and souls,  
the healing of our relationships,  
the healing of our pride and fear and apathy.  
We know that with you, nothing is impossible,  
not even our healing, not even the restoration of the whole world.  
We pray that you will heal us, and that you will heal our world,  
so that we will be freed to serve and love  
and dream and be, as Christ calls us. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **\*LIVE INTO HOPE**

*Live into hope of captives freed  
From chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
To faith and hope and joy and peace.*

TRURO

## **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 86

- <sup>1</sup> Incline your ear, O God, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.
- <sup>2</sup> Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.  
You are my God; <sup>3</sup> be gracious to me, O God,  
for to you do I cry all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O God, I lift up my soul.
- <sup>5</sup> For you, O God, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
- <sup>6</sup> Give ear, O God, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication.
- <sup>7</sup> In the day of my trouble I call on you,  
for you will answer me.
- <sup>8</sup> There is none like you among the gods, O God,  
nor are there any works like yours.
- <sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O God,  
and shall glorify your name.
- <sup>10</sup> For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.
- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O God,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- <sup>12</sup> I give thanks to you, O God my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever.
- <sup>13</sup> For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- <sup>14</sup> O God, the insolent rise up against me;  
a band of ruffians seeks my life,  
and they do not set you before them.

- <sup>15</sup> But you, O God, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- <sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me;  
give your strength to your servant;  
save the child of your maidservant.
- <sup>17</sup> Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,  
because you, God, have helped me and comforted me.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

### Calm on the Water

*In a dream I was walking in a beautiful field,  
I was gathering flowers at the foot of a hill  
When a bright light descended, and it spread o'er the land.  
Jesus stood on the mountain, and he held out his hand.*

*Then he came down from the mountain, headed down to the sea,  
And the children strowed flowers in the path at his feet.  
And he was filled with compassion, and the beasts from the wild  
Came as gentle as lambs and they walked at his side.*

Chorus:

*There's a calm on the water, a hush in the crowd.  
There's peace in the valley; there's a stillness about.  
There's a light in the darkness; there's a joy in his love.  
Ain't that a wonderful feeling; let us lift him up.*

*Then he suddenly vanished from the crowd down below;  
Reappeared on the mountain in a radiant glow.  
He said, "Your questions are many, but the answer is love.  
I'll draw all men unto me if I be lifted up." Chorus*

Beth Langley, *alto*  
Dolly Parton

## THE SECOND LESSON

Acts 16:9-15

<sup>9</sup>During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a Macedonian pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup>When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup>We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup>On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. Christ opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to Christ, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Contemplative Praying*

Rev. Brigid Boyle

## 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 275 God of Our Life

SANDON

## \*BENEDICTION

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

*pg. 6*

## POSTLUDE

“God Will Take Care of You”

arr. Robert J. Hughes

*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 snacks, coffee, and fellowship.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Najwa Webster  
Fellowship Hour .....David Aronson and Sara Hahne

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

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](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) • Bluesky: [parkcentralchurch.org](https://bsky.app/profile/parkcentralchurch.org)