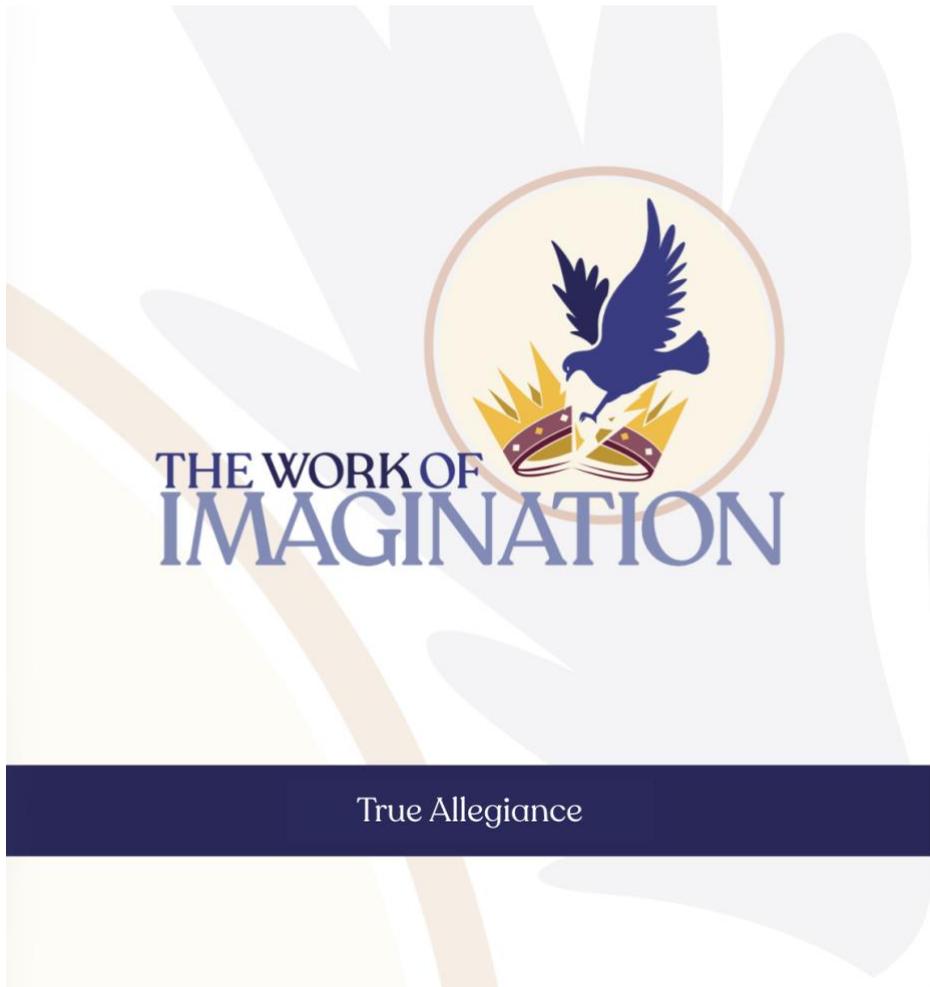


PARK CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE WORK OF  
IMAGINATION

True Allegiance

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 22, 2026 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**

Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben

Johann Sebastian Bach

*(For love, my Savior now is dying – from St. Matthew Passion BWV 244)*

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

Sandra Murphy, *organ*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come into God's presence,  
you who imagine and you who seek,  
you who disrupt and you who repair.

**By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

Come into God's keeping,  
you who bear the divine image,  
you who are in this world but not of it.

**In Christ, we gather and we belong.**

Come into God's presence,  
singing for joy and for justice.

**To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

**\*HYMN 395** Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LIEBSTER JESU

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

*pg. 2*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, you see the powerful people in this world as they scramble for more, keeping the weak in places of suffering. Even though we are aware of their evil alliances, we contribute to these systems and power structures with our money, our time, and our attention. Forgive us for aligning our allegiance with systems and corporations that harm life and cause suffering. Help us resist the temptation to devote ourselves to worldly ways that offend your righteousness. Teach us to have open hands to serve you better. Amen.**

### SILENT PRAYER

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

#### \*BE THOU MY VISION

SLANE

*Great God of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

### 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

Titus 3:1–8

<sup>1</sup> Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> we were saved, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> which God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by God's grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> The saying is sure.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 830 Jesus, Priceless Treasure

JESU, MEINE FREUDE

## THE SECOND LESSON

Mark 12:13–17

<sup>13</sup> Then they sent to Jesus some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. <sup>14</sup> And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

<sup>15</sup> Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, Jesus said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a coin and let me see it." <sup>16</sup> And they brought one. Then Jesus said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Briana Vaught

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

*pg. 4*

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

Beth Langley, *contralto*; Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

Erbarme dich, mein Gott (*Have Mercy, Lord, On Me*)

J. S. Bach

(from St. Matthew Passion BWV 244)

*Erbarme dich, mein Gott,  
Um meiner Zähren willen,  
Schaue hier, Herz und Auge  
Weint vor dir bitterlich.*

*Have mercy, Lord, on me,  
Regard my bitter weeping,  
Look on me, heart and eyes  
Both weep to Thee bitterly.*

## 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 679** Let the Whole Creation Cry

SALZBURG

\***BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Ich will dir Mein Herze schenken (*Jesus, Savior, I Am Thine*)

J.S. Bach

(from St. Matthew Passion BWV 244)

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

Sandra Murphy, *organ*

**Are you new to our church?**

We would love to connect with you!

Please scan the QR code for our  
digital welcome pad!



## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Ben Merchant

“This is the work of imagination: to envision a world remade by mercy, to trust that healing is possible even in the shadow of empire, and to practice love that outlasts despair. Lent calls us into this holy labor—not as a solitary act, but as a communal path toward transformation.”

We worship a God who exists beyond the bounds of language. We are part of a creation that is vibrant in its diversity. We hope that the language used in today’s worship reflects those inclusive and expansive ideals. Some traditional prayers and hymns may contain gendered terms for God; please feel free to substitute more expansive terms.

As a member of the PC(USA)’s Matthew 25 movement, Park Central works toward building congregational vitality and dismantling structural racism. 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.

Brigid Boyle..... Parish Associate  
Sarah McTyre.....Pastor  
Sandra Murphy.....Music Director  
Kenneth Pfeffer.....Building Manager  
Briana Vaught.....Office and Communications Manager  
Justin Vaught..... Finance Administrator/Bookkeeper

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)