

PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Second Sunday of Advent

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 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

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Ricky and Julie Valadez

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The God who speaks comfort calls out to us.

The God who comes with might meets us here.

We come to prepare the way of God.

We come to open our hearts to the good news.

For the glory of God shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together.

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

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

we confess that we often doubt your good news.

We move through this world

waiting for the other shoe to drop,

waiting for life to fall apart,

**Please rise in body or spirit*

12/10/23

pg. 2

waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.
Instead of leaning into the joy of our calling,
we lean into scarcity.
We lean into fear.
We lean into isolation.
Forgive us for forgetting that
you come to us with love and might.
You come to bring us joy as we
follow your way together.
Open the doors of our hearts and our lives
in this holy season.
Make us ready to welcome the birth of Jesus. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE**

VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

RESPONSE

The Park Central Ensemble

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
Gently lead them homeward.*

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

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from God's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Most High;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of God shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of God has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass;
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades,
when the breath of God blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Most High God comes with might,
and rules with a strong arm;
God’s reward is with God
and God’s recompense before God.

¹¹ God will feed God’s flock like a shepherd,
and will gather the lambs in God’s arms
and carry them in God’s bosom
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Beth Langley, *alto* and Megan Hook, *soprano*

He Shall Feed His Flock/Come Unto Him

George Frideric Handel

from *Messiah*, HWV 56

Alto Recitative:

*Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,
And the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,
And the tongue of the dumb shall sing.*

Alto:

*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd:
And he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
And carry them in his bosom,
And gently lead those that are with young.*

Soprano:

*Come unto him all ye that labour,
Come unto him that are heavy laden,
And he will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him;
For he is meek and lowly of heart,
And ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:24-45

²⁴ After those days Zechariah's wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ "This is what God has done for me in this time, when God looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

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.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by God."

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

***HYMN 16** The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“The Angel Gabriel” based on GABRIEL'S MESSAGE arr. Norman Warren

*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.....Ben Merchant
Fellowship HourDavid Aronson and Sara Hahne

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

~ A Gaelic Blessing

Today's liturgy is adapted from resources for Advent from A Sanctified Art.

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.....Keyboard Musician
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)