

PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



TOGETHER
FOR JOY

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 29, 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

“Be Still and Know”

Steven Curtis Chapman
arr. Lloyd Larson

Sandra Murphy, *piano*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sing to God a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.
Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy.

***HYMN 483** Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that
we do not always live as those
entrusted with the good news of your grace.
We often give ourselves the privilege**

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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of sorting who is in and who is out.
When we seek to please others or gain security,
we fail to practice the deep welcome
that we have experienced in your presence.
Forgive us, we pray.
Set our hearts and feet on the way
of Jesus once again
and give us joy together
as we welcome everyone in your name. 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

Isaiah 40:3-5

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 people shall see it together,
for the mouth of God has spoken.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Kent Bradshaw, *baritone*
arr. Brenda Portman

A Mighty Fortress

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth;
His kingdom is forever.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Mark 5:1-20

¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³ He lived among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces, and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him, ⁷ and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ He begged Jesus earnestly not to send them out of the region. ¹¹ Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding, ¹² and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, stampeded down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man possessed by demons sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion, and they became frightened. ¹⁶ Those who had seen what had happened to the man possessed by demons and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus refused and said to him, "Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and what mercy he has shown you." ²⁰ And the man went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Healing Miracle

Rev. Matt Hackworth, guest preacher

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 210** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“A Mighty Fortress” (EIN’ FESTE BURG)

arr. Christina Harmon

*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.*

Announcements for October 29, 2023

Wednesday, November 1

7:00 pm Arts at Park – Sound Bath

Saturday, November 4

10:00 am Training series retreat

Sunday, November 5

9:00 am Bible study (virtual)

10:30 am Worship service

11:30 am Fellowship hour

We Welcome Rev. Matt Hackworth!

The Rev. Matt Hackworth is a veteran of the faith-based relief, development and refugee services field. Matt started his career as a journalist, primarily producing stories for NPR and its member stations. He has served in senior leadership for PC(USA)-supported ministries, Church World Service and IMA World Health. Matt is a graduate of Chicago Theological Seminary who understands his call to ministry to be in sharing the story of the need for, and how, the church does God's work to end hunger and poverty, and to promote peace and justice. Today, Matt serves in senior leadership for L'Arche USA, an organization committed to helping people with and without intellectual disabilities to live in community, together. He is married to Rhonda, an associate professor of music education at Ole Miss and is proud father to Noah, a young man with autism whose gifts prompted him to create a burgeoning vacuum repair business. They live in Oxford, MS.

Friendsgiving

We will be hosting a Friendsgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day. We are in need of people to help with organizing; shopping and prepping beforehand; and prepping and cooking on Thanksgiving morning. After the community meal here at the church, we then deliver meals to people around the city. If you are interested in participating, there will be an informal meeting during Fellowship Hour on November 5.

Save the Dates

On Saturday, December 2, all are invited to help decorate the Sanctuary and Gathering Hall for Advent and Christmas. We will work from around 10am until 12pm. There are jobs for everyone, so please come join in the fun!

On Sunday, December 17, we will hold the Household Closet Christmas Party after worship. We will collect new and gently used items for the household closet leading up to that date. Then we will gather after worship for fellowship and present opening. Let the office know if you'd like to contribute to the party snacks!

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....	Marissa Saunders
Greeter.....	Marissa Saunders
Fellowship Hour	Ben Merchant

Joy is the happiness for which the human heart longs,
a lasting happiness, a happiness that does not depend on what happens...

The root of joy is gratefulness.

~ Br. David Steindl-Rast

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.....	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)