

PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE WORK OF
IMAGINATION

Rooted Resistance

First Sunday in Lent

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 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

Cavatina

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

Sandra Murphy, *piano*

***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 presence,
you who live in this wide and wild world,
navigating beauty and uncertainty, temptation and trial.

In Christ, we gather as children of God.

Come into God's presence!

Let all the peoples praise God! Let all the nations sing!

***HYMN 361 O Christ, the Great Foundation**

AURELIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

pg. 2

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

we confess that when the wilderness feels too chaotic
and the earth beneath our feet seems to shift with change,
we easily fall into despair.

We forget to hope.

We neglect to dream.

We imagine paths of doom instead of journeys to glory.

And yet, your Spirit holds steady within and around us.

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to trust, to hope, to dream,

and to walk forward in faith.

And when the fears come again,

help us to find support in the strength of community.

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, the power, and the glory
forever. Amen.

**Please rise in body or spirit*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to God,”
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

¹¹ Be glad in God and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘God will command the angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus said to the devil, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Most High your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the nations of the world and their splendor, ⁹ and said, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Jesus replied, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Most High your God, and serve only God.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left Jesus, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Sarah McTyre

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MUSICAL MEDITATION You Raise Me Up

Michael Spencer, *baritone*
Words and Music by Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham

*When I am down and oh, my soul, so weary,
When troubles come and my heart burdened be,
Then I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit awhile with me.*

Refrain:

*You raise me up so I can stand on mountains.
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders.
You raise me up to more than I can be.*

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 CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.

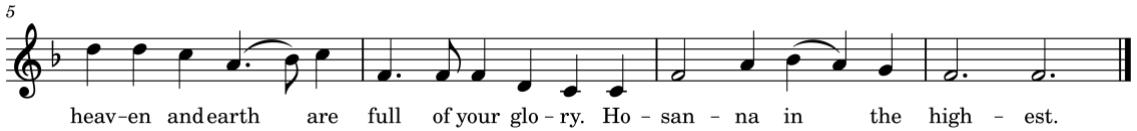
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.

We joyfully give our thanks and praise.

It is a joyful occasion when we come to give thanks...
... we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

**Please rise in body or spirit*



Knowing you have equipped us with all we need....
... and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:



Holy, imaginative God...
... strength for the work that lies ahead.
Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Please rise in body or spirit

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,

**we thank you for these tangible gifts of bread and cup
that feed our bodies and nourish our souls.**

May these blessings of grace be shared, not hoarded.

Though we have been fed today at the table,

may we still walk away hungry for justice,

working for freedom and fullness for all of your creation. Amen.

***HYMN 341 O God, Show Mercy to Us**

THAXTED

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “THAXTED”

THAXTED, arr. Gordon Young

*Please join us in the Gathering Hall following worship
for snacks, coffee, and fellowship.*

Are you new to our church?

We would love to connect with you!

Please scan the QR code for our
digital welcome pad!



Announcements for February 22, 2026

Scan here to donate!



Tuesday, February 24

7:00 pm Sound bath

Sunday, March 1

9:00 am Bible study

10:30 am Worship service

11:30 am Fellowship hour

Sound Bath

The next sound bath will be Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm. If you would like to walk the labyrinth, please come at 6:30. Wear **warm** comfy clothing and consider bringing a blanket. Come ready to relax!

Kit Packing

We will be packing kits for Church World Service after worship on March 8. These kits are sent out to help people all over the world. All are welcome!

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we will gather around the tables on the third floor at 6:00 pm for dinner and worship. We hope you'll join us!

LGBTQ+ Inclusion Workshops

The LGBTQ+ Inclusion Workshops have been rescheduled to April 19 and 26 and May 3. We hope you'll be able to join us then!

Save the Date

This year's Pride parade will be held on June 13, and we look forward to marching together as we celebrate and affirm the LGBTQ+ community!

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Cal Hansen

“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

Website: 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://bluesky.app/@parkcentralchurch)