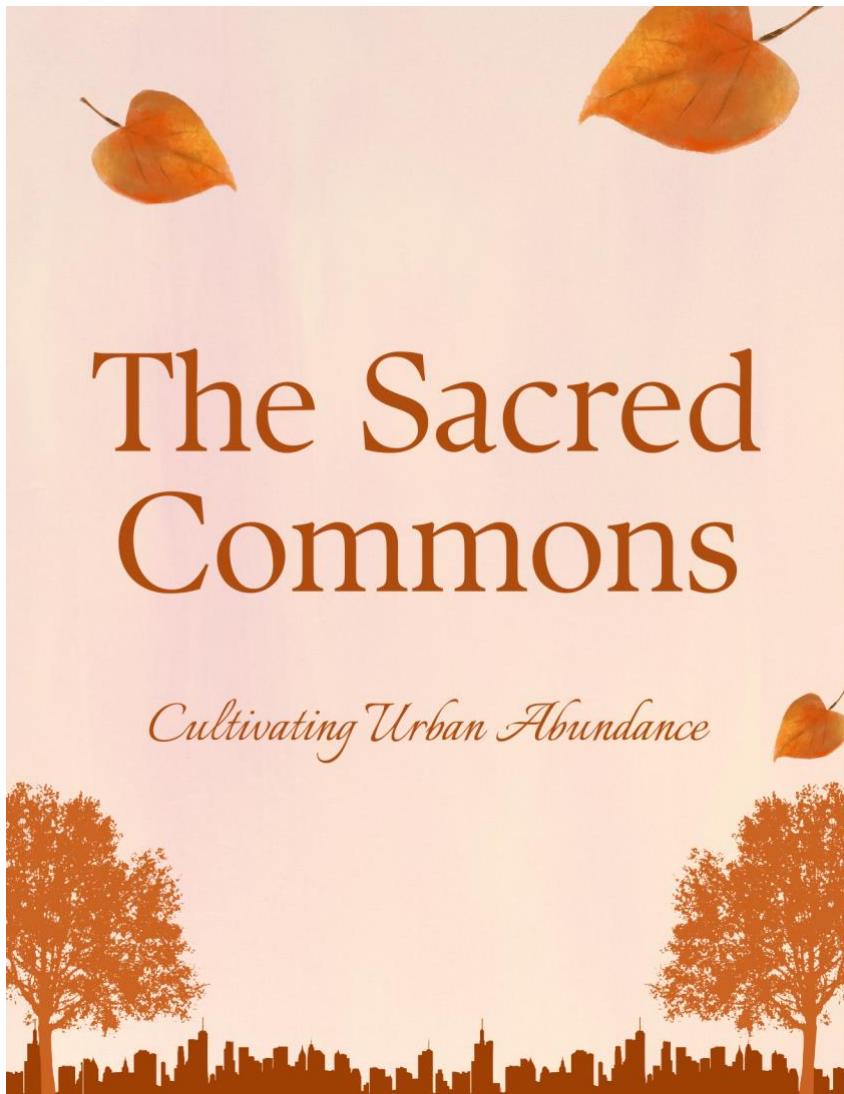


PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 27, 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

*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

Sarabande

Esther Glazer, arr. Irwin Hoffman

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

Sandra Murphy, *piano*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Out of many paths, we arrive in this sacred space.

We gather to worship, to listen, and to grow together.

We are called to love our neighbors, near and far,
and to seek justice in our communities.

Let us open our hearts to the stories, songs, and spirit of one another.

Come, let us worship God with joy!

***HYMN 4** Holy God, We Praise Your Name GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and living God,
you call us to follow you in word and in deed.
We confess that we often choose easier paths
that are less worthy of your children.
We worry about how we are perceived.
We go through the motions
without letting our worship of you
burrow deep into our hearts.
We resist the change that you continually call us to.
Forgive us, we pray.
Give us the courage to live lives of bold action.
Give us the wisdom to turn our full selves toward you.
Give us the tenderness to love one another
and journey together as your beloved community. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***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

Psalm 25:1-9

- ¹ To you, O God, I lift up my soul.
² O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O God;
teach me your paths.
⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O God, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O God!

⁸ Good and upright is God;
therefore God instructs sinners in the way.
⁹ God leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble God's way.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN 420 Lord, to You My Soul Is Lifted

GENEVAN 25

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Briana Vaught

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Adam Beckwith, *guest baritone*

David's Prayer

Michael Costa

Lord, in Thy mercy, oh, hear my prayer; still keep me under Thy watchful care!

Each morning lowly bending the knee, my voice is calling, Father, on Thee.

Grant that I ne'er may wander away from paths of the righteous, with scorners to stray.

Teach me Thy statutes, let me fulfill meekly and humbly Thy gracious will.

Lord, in Thy mercy, oh, hear my prayer. Lord, in Thy mercy, oh, hear my prayer.

Lord, when the wicked compass me round, in Thee alone my refuge is found.

And when the night's dark shadows are near, oh, deign in mercy Thy servant to hear.

Thou, Lord, hast led me up from my youth; vouchsafe to send out Thy light and truth.

Guide me and teach me to know Thy will, ever ascending Thy holy hill.

Lord, in Thy mercy, oh, hear my prayer! Lord, in Thy mercy, oh, hear my prayer.

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 644** Give Thanks, O Christian People

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS
WALDVÖGELEIN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Joyous Air

Henry Purcell, arr. Jon Spong

*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 September 27, 2026

Scan here to donate!

Monday, September 28

12:00 pm Scripture Round Table

Sunday, October 4

10:30 am Worship service

11:30 am Fellowship hour



Sound Bath

The next sound bath will be Tuesday, October 13 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.

Sacred Commons Scripture Round Table

Every week we host a scripture round table on Mondays at 12:00 on Zoom. This online gathering is a casual time where we can look at the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday and explore them as a community. It's informal, so feel free to eat and to come late or leave early if you need to!

World Communion Sunday

Next Sunday, October 4, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday with Emmanuel Congregation and Leap of Faith Ministry. On this day we honor the way that communion unites us with people across the globe. This year we are collecting items for a food pantry that serves new Americans. Please bring any of the following items to worship on October 4, and we will gather them at the front of the sanctuary: red beans, black beans, chickpeas, corn, soy flavored ramen, Basmati rice, Jasmine rice, spaghetti, and spaghetti sauce (no pork).

Fellowship Hour

We have a new format for the coffee hour sign-up sheet! If you'd like to do a whole Sunday coffee hour, you are still more than welcome to. If you'd like to just bring one or two things, the new sheet will make sure there's no overlap with anyone else volunteering. We hope this will make it easier for folks to be part of this ministry!

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

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