

PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



First Sunday of Advent

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 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

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

arr. Robert Edward Smith

(NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND)

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be ourselves -

inspired, tired,

doubtful, delighted,

curious, hesitant.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our God who meets us here with love.

***HYMN 13** Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

12/03/23

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Remind us that we need Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed

and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that we can hear you in the quiet.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

**Remind us that healing takes time
and that joy and grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith

that struggle to hold onto hope, we pray:

**Forgive us and speak to us today
through the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth.**

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. 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 one candle to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise.

**Please rise in body or spirit*

12/03/23

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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.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
- ³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ⁴ O Most High God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ¹⁷ Let your hand be upon the one at your side,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- ¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O Most High God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

I Wonder As I Wander

Megan Hook, *soprano*
Traditional Appalachian Carol
Collected by John Jacob Niles
arr. Megan Hook

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come forth to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, for he was the King.*

Violin solo

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come forth to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:5-23

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all of God's commandments and regulations. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was infertile, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of God to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of God, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw the angel, he was

terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of God. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ John will turn many of the people of Israel to the Most High their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before the Lord, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

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

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

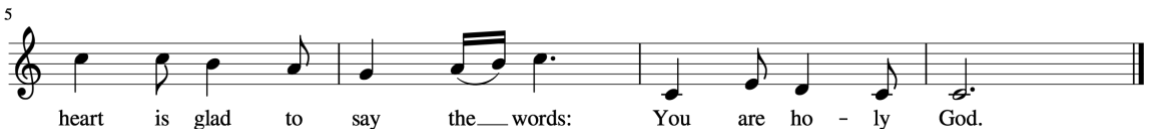
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord God, our Savior...

... we join the ancient and eternal hymn:



We praise you for the gift of Jesus ...

... we proclaim again the mystery of our faith:



Pour out your Holy Spirit...
... until you gather us at your table in glory.
Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Mighty God, holy is your name.
We thank you for gathering us at your table
and feeding us with the bread of life.
As we leave this table
to go to the many places where you call us,
send your Spirit to accompany us,
so that we may share in your work of love:
lifting up those who are laid low,
showing mercy to all in need of kindness,
and feeding the bodies and hearts
of all those who are hungry. Amen.

***HYMN 15** Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Partita on ‘In the Bleak Midwinter’” (CRANHAM)

arr. Michael Fontana

I. Theme

II. Invention

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 a baby shower.

Advent 2023

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

Baby shower for the Vaughnts after worship
All are welcome to join the celebration!

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

December 11 - Christmas Sound Bath at 7pm

This meditative event is free and open to the public!

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

Household Closet Christmas Party after worship
Please bring any unwrapped gifts by December 10.

December 24 - Christmas Eve worship at 4pm

Come hear the story of Christ's birth, and sing and
listen to some favorite Christmas hymns!
This will be the only worship service held that day.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist..... Marissa Saunders
Baby Shower Hosts..... Park Central Deacons

O Lord, make room in us for awe.

Make room in us for wonder.

Make room for heartache and compassion.

Make room in our hearts for you.

Today's liturgy is adapted from our *Book of Common Worship* and
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

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Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, M-Th

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Website: www.parkcentralchurch.org • Facebook: Park Central Presbyterian Church

Instagram: [parkcentralsyr](https://www.instagram.com/parkcentralsyr) • TikTok: [parkcentralchurch](https://www.tiktok.com/@parkcentralchurch)