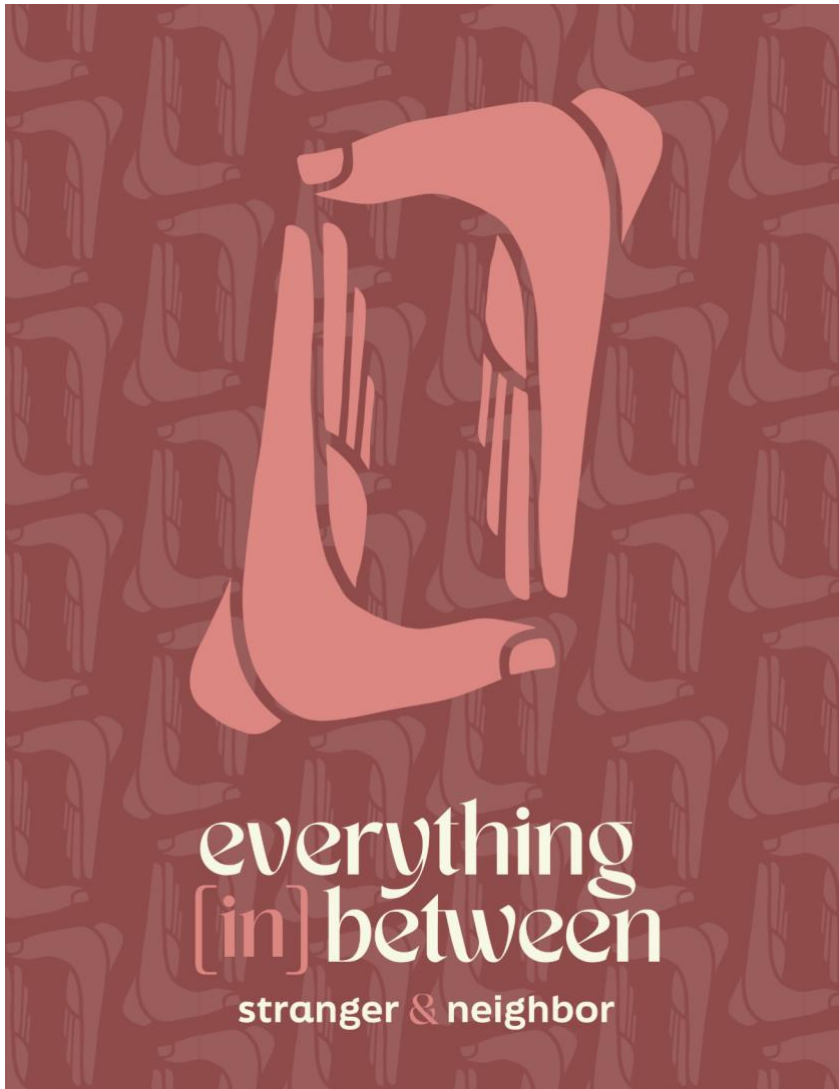


PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



First Sunday in Lent

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 9, 2025 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

“The Deserted Garden”

Florence B. Price, ed. Owain Evans

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your strength,

with all your mind,

and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

In this place and in this holy season,

God's realm is as near to us as our neighbor.

***HYMN 76** My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you have called us
to love our neighbors as ourselves,
but we get tripped up on logistics.
We want to know: Who is my neighbor?
Do I have to love the stranger?
Must I have compassion for my enemy?
Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions
rather than creating a wider circle of concern.
Renew our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor
in every stranger we encounter. 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, the power, and the glory
forever. Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have come into the land that your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that your God will choose as a dwelling for God's name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say, "Today I declare to God that I have come into the land that God swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the God of our ancestors; God heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ God brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and God brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O God, have given me." You shall set it down before your God and bow down before your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that your God has given to you and to your house.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Park Central Chorus

The Gift of Grace

Richard Shepherd

*Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace,
And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life
In Christ Jesus, our Lord, eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Most High your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And Jesus said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Stranger & Neighbor*

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

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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 our God.

Let us give thanks to God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

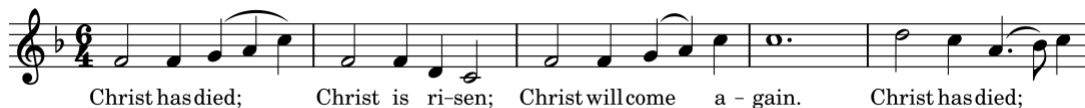
It is truly right, and we praise you.....

... who forever sing to the glory of your name:



We praise you, most holy God...

.... Great is the mystery of faith:



Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...
... all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

**Gracious God,
you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and earth.
You have fed us with the bread of life,
and renewed us for your service.
Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup,
to be his faithful disciples
so that our daily living
may be part of the life of your reign,
and our love be your love
reaching out into the life of the world;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***HYMN 308** O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

KINGSFOLD

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Mazurka" (Op. 49, No. 3)

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

Amy Beach

*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.*

Our congregational meeting will be held after worship.

All are welcome!

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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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.

Today’s liturgy is adapted from A Sanctified Art.

Robert Allen.....Director of Arts and Technology
Brigid Boyle..... Parish Associate
Lenora Joyner-Hayes Finance Administrator/Bookkeeper
Sarah McTyre.....Pastor
Sandra Murphy.....Keyboard Musician
Kenneth Pfeffer.....Building 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) • Bluesky: [parkcentralchurch.org](https://bsky.app/profile/parkcentralchurch.org)