

# PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Star of Bethlehem by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art

*Celebration of the Epiphany*

**CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY**  
JANUARY 5, 2025 10:30 AM

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**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**

“Noel Nouvelet” (traditional French carol) arr. Evelyn R. Larter  
Dan Blumenthal, *violin* and Sandra Murphy, *piano*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
**and the glory of God has risen upon you.**  
In Jesus Christ, the light of God has come into the world.  
**The light of God has come into our lives.**  
The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**\*HYMN 62** Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love EPIPHANY SONG

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of life and light,  
Forgive us when we follow paths that  
lead us to constricted places  
of fear, hate, greed, or despair.  
Forgive us when we forget that you offer us life  
that is radiant, abundant, and spacious.  
Turn our hearts again to your light.  
Turn our feet to your ways.  
Let your love and grace flow over us  
and renew our living. Amen.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **\*GLORIA**

TAIZÉ

*Gloria, gloria,  
In excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria,  
Alleluia, alleluia!* (Sung twice)

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN 48**      Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

## **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 43:16-21

<sup>16</sup> Thus says God,  
    who makes a way in the sea,  
    a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
    army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
    or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
    now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
    and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
    the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
    rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

Leader: This is the word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

### I Wonder as I Wander

Sandra Murphy, *voice and piano*

arr. Doug Andrews

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

*Starlight on a cold winter's night,  
So bright, near a town called Bethlehem.  
In a manger stall He lay, a tiny young thing,  
And who would have ever thought  
He would be King!*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, Herod inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, the magi offered the child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: This is the word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

**SERMON**

Rev. Sarah McTyre

**SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

# **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF EPIPHANY**

**\*HYMN 66**      We Three Kings of Orient Are

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

arr. Andrew Fletcher

*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 January 5, 2025

Scan here to donate!

### Sunday, January 12

9:00 am Bible study (virtual)  
10:30 am Worship service  
11:30 am Fellowship hour



### Sound Bath

The next sound bath will be Monday, January 13 at 7 pm. The sound bath is a time to allow your body and your mind to rest and recenter. All are welcome!

### An Invitation from the Mission Study Task Force

Please join us after worship on Sunday, January 19 from 12- 2 pm. This is part of a series of congregational gatherings designed to help us understand who we are as a congregation and where and what God is calling us to be next. It will help us gather feedback and articulate who we are both individually and collectively. It will also be fun! We look forward to being with you. Lunch will be provided. All ages are welcome! Please sign up by emailing the church office.

### Get Involved!

There are sign-up sheets in the Gathering Hall for greeters and coffee hour hosts. You can get more information about each of these roles by emailing the office! You can also contact the office if you are interested in reading during worship. Don't hesitate to ask questions about how any of these roles can be adapted to fit your situation. For example, you can partner with someone else to host coffee hour, provide financial support, or even just make or bring a few things! Mission, Membership, and Outreach is happy to help you get involved in whatever way works best for you!

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist..... Ben Merchant

Illuminate our hearts, O God,  
with the radiance of Christ's presence,  
that our lives may show forth his love in this weary world.

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](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)

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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Instagram: [parkcentralsyr](https://www.instagram.com/parkcentralsyr) • TikTok: [parkcentralchurch](https://www.tiktok.com/@parkcentralchurch) • Bluesky: [parkcentralchurch.org](https://bsky.app/profile/parkcentralchurch.org)