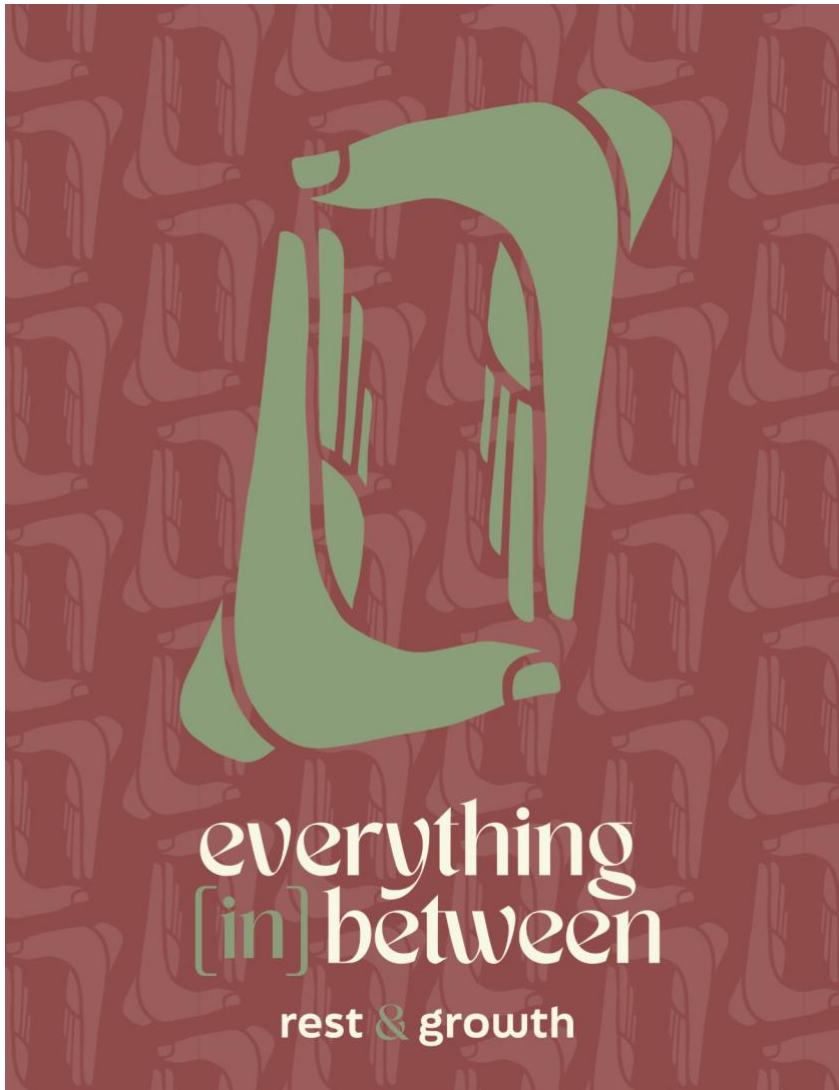


PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Third Sunday in Lent

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 23, 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

"I Will Arise and Go To Jesus" - RESTORATION
Sandra Murphy, *piano*

arr. Heather Sorenson

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, all who feel weary and barren,
like a tree without fruit.

**We come, bearing the weight of our struggles
and the cries of our hearts.**

Come, all who are pressed by urgent needs,
longing for sustenance and strength.

**We come, seeking God's presence
in the midst of our burdens.**

Come, and seek the One who nurtures, tends,
and renews with infinite grace.

We come to find rest, renewal, and the promise of hope.

In this space, we are not alone.

Together, we seek the God who restores and sustains.

**Let us worship with hearts open to the One
who brings life from the barren places.**

***HYMN 375** Lord of All Good

TOULON

**Please rise in body or spirit*

pg. 2

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we come before you as both the barren tree and the weary owner, torn between the weight of our struggles and the urgency of our needs. We confess that we have grown impatient—with ourselves, with others, even with you. We have tried to carry burdens too heavy to bear alone, we are exhausted, and we have forgotten to trust in your sustaining grace.

Forgive us when we feel too weary to seek your presence. Forgive us when we overlook the care you alone can offer.

Tend to the soil of our hearts, we pray. In your mercy, grant us the strength to go on, the courage to rest in You, and the assurance that we are never forgotten.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, holy, holy.

My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words:

You are holy, Lord!

ARGENTINE SANTO

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.

**Please rise in body or spirit*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 61:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

⁶ when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

⁷ for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

⁸ My soul clings to you;
your strong hand upholds me.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Beth Langley, *alto*

And Can It Be?

Dan Forrest

*And can it be, and can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain? For me who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me?
He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O, my God, it found out me.
And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
No condemnation now I dread; Jesus and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own.
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God shouldst die for me?
Amazing love!*

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then Jesus told this parable: "A man who had a fig tree planted in a vineyard came looking for fruit on it, and finding none, ⁷ said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ The gardener replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rest & Growth

Rev. Brigid Boyle

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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 391 Take My Life

HENDON

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Sortie”

Marcel Dupré, transcribed by David A. Stephen
Sandra Murphy, organ

*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 March 23, 2025

Scan here to donate!

Wednesday, March 26

5:30 pm Movie and Discussion

Sunday, March 30

9:30 am Spiritual practice

10:30 am Worship service

11:30 am Service project



Lent Offerings

On the Sundays in Lent, March 9, 16, 23, and 30 and April 6 and 13, we are hosting a series on spiritual practices. These are half-hour sessions beginning at 9:30 am. Please join us, even if you are not able to make it to all six sessions. We hope this will enrich your Lenten season!

We will host a service of shadows, called Tenebrae, on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 pm. We will read scripture and follow Jesus from his betrayal all the way to his burial.

Movie and Discussion Night

We will be holding a movie and conversation night on Wednesday, March 26. We will come together in the Gathering Hall at 5:30 pm to watch *The Six Triple Eight*, and afterwards there will be time for discussion. Snacks will be provided. All are welcome! Please sign up in the Gathering Hall if you plan to attend.

Kit Packing

We will be packing kits for Church World Service after worship on Sunday, March 30. Lunch will be provided.

Mission Report

Marissa Saunders will be sharing about her mission trip to Uganda during fellowship hour on Sunday, April 6.

Sound Bath

The next sound bath will be on Tuesday, April 22 at 7 pm. The sound bath is a time to allow your body and your mind to rest and recenter. All are welcome!

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Briana Vaught

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.

Portions of today's liturgy are 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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Instagram: [parkcentralsyr](https://www.instagram.com/parkcentralsyr) • TikTok: [parkcentralchurch](https://www.tiktok.com/@parkcentralchurch) • Bluesky: [parkcentralchurch.org](https://bsky.app/profile/parkcentralchurch.org)