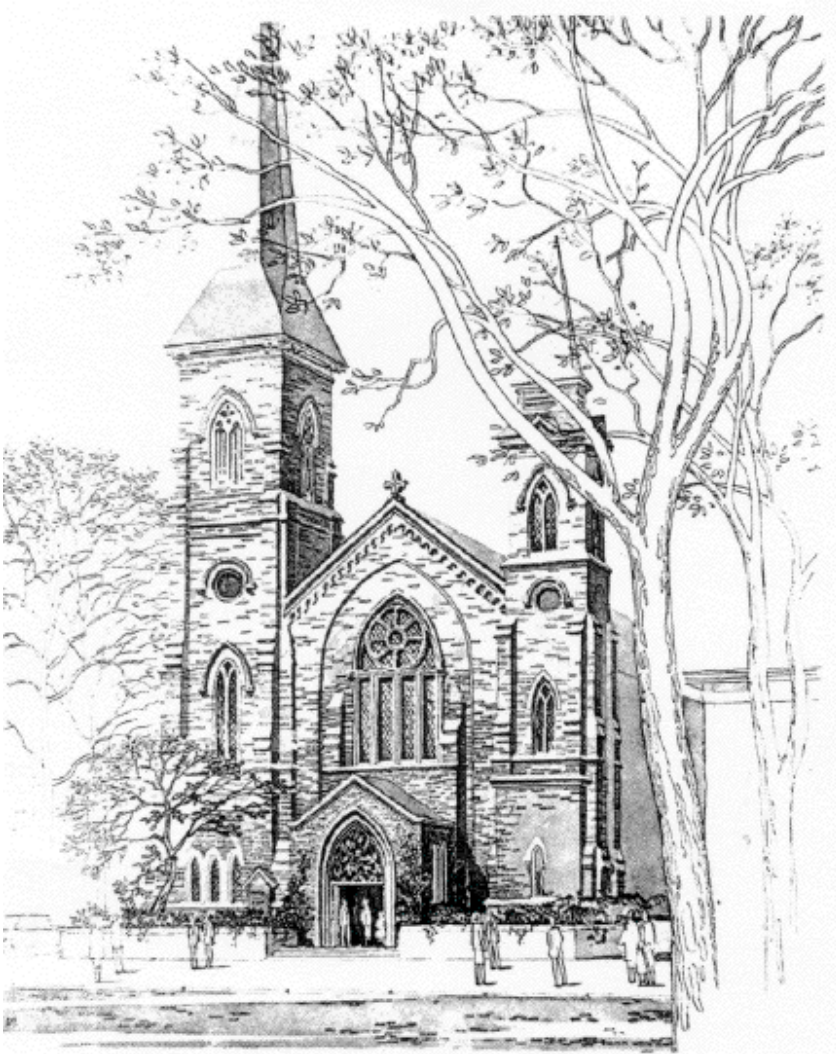


PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 25, 2024 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

“Méditation Religieuse”

Auguste Péron

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*; Sandra Murphy, *organ*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to worship knowing that

God is with us

In new beginnings

In painful endings

In challenging opportunities

In graceful exits

And in all the spaces and places in between

God is in it all

In our wild successes and

In our colossal failures

God will not budge.

God will not leave.

God stands firm.

This is the God we come to worship.

***HYMN 479** Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, we confess that all too often
we barrel through life as if we are running a race,
and there is a blue ribbon for the one who gets there first.
We forget that what happens on the way
is the stuff that life is made of.
We race for the imaginary ribbon
and fail to see the people who are hurting on the way.
We miss out on everyday miracles that take place on the way.
We refuse to obey your commandment for Sabbath rest
because we're afraid of losing ground.
Have mercy on us, God, when we race through life
so fast that we miss out on all that you want us to see.
On all that you have placed in our path.
Slow us down.
Chill us out.
Help us to be the people you created us to be
as we continue our journey with you. 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,**

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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

Philippians 1:3-9

³ I thank my God for every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy ⁵ for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

The PCPC Ensemble

This Is the Day

John Rutter

This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it. O praise the Lord of heaven: praise him in the height. Praise him, all ye angels of his: praise him, all his host. Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars and light, let them praise the Name of the Lord.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways. The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand; So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even thee that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

He shall defend thee under his wings. Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

THE SECOND LESSON

Judges 13

¹ The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of God, and God gave them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

² There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren, having borne no children. ³ And the angel of God appeared to the woman and said to her, “Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴ Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink or to eat anything unclean, ⁵ for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” ⁶ Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name, ⁷ but he said to me, ‘You shall conceive and bear a son. So then, drink no wine or strong drink and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.’ ”

⁸ Then Manoah entreated God and said, “O God, I pray, let the man of God whom you sent come to us again and teach us what we are to do concerning the boy who will be born.” ⁹ God listened to Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field, but her husband Manoah was not with her. ¹⁰ So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “The man who came to me the other day has appeared to me.”

¹¹ Manoah got up and followed his wife and came to the man and said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to this woman?” And he said, “I am.” ¹² Then Manoah said, “Now when your words come true, what is to be the boy’s rule of life; what is he to do?”

¹³ The angel of God said to Manoah, “Let the woman give heed to all that I said to her.

¹⁴ She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine. She is not to drink wine or strong drink or eat any unclean thing. She is to observe everything that I commanded her.”

¹⁵ Manoah said to the angel of God, “Allow us to detain you and prepare a kid for you.”

¹⁶ The angel of God said to Manoah, “If you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you want to prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to God.” (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of God.) ¹⁷ Then Manoah said to the angel of God, “What is your name, so that we may honor you when your words come true?” ¹⁸ But the angel of God said to him, “Why do you ask my name? It is too wonderful.”

¹⁹ So Manoah took the kid with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to God, to the one who works wonders. ²⁰ When the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of God ascended in the flame of the altar while Manoah and his wife looked on, and they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹ The angel of God did not appear again to Manoah and his wife. Then Manoah realized that it was the angel of God. ²² And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, for we have seen God.” ²³ But his wife said to him, “If God had meant to kill us, God would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands or shown us all these things or announced to us such things as these.”

²⁴ The woman bore a son and named him Samson. The boy grew, and God blessed him.

²⁵ The spirit of God began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Lessons from Hazel*

Rev. Anne Russ, guest preacher

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.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe that Jesus meant it when he said, “Follow me.”

We believe that when worries and concern choke out our calm and leave us with anxiety and fear, Jesus offers his peace

We believe that when life weighs us down with all its cares and burdens and concerns, Jesus lifts us up.

We believe that when we feel the effects of illness or aging on our bodies or minds, Jesus offers a healing touch

We believe that when we are asked to go the extra mile, to be generous with our time and our presence, Jesus gives us strength.

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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We believe when we harbor old wounds, Jesus calls us to forgiveness.

We believe that when we are challenged to risk our security and grow in our faith, Jesus gives us courage.

We believe that even when we falter in our efforts to follow, Jesus never lets us go or leaves us behind.

We believe in the Creator God, the Risen Christ, and the ever-presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN 488** The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Praeludium in F pro organo pleno”

Johann Ludwig Krebs

*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
to work on service projects.*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

LiturgistsMichael and Susan Barbour

When Spirit appears to her, she receives the message simply and calmly. She isn't ruled by anxiety. She understands that what she is experiencing is sacred. Unlike her husband Manoach, she doesn't try to impose human categories, or establish control or dominance. She simply experiences what is unfolding, and perceives it accurately. Even in the face of a spontaneously flaming altar, she is completely present. The name midrash gives her— "faces the clarity"—suggests this is exactly her gift.

~ Rabbi Jill Hammer, "Facing the Angel"

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

Church Office Email: office@parkcentralchurch.org

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

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