

PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE WORK OF
IMAGINATION

Disruptive Blessings

Second Sunday in Lent

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 1, 2026 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

Pastorale

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

Sandra Murphy, *piano*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come into God's presence,
you who imagine and you who seek,
you who disrupt and you who repair.

By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

Come into God's fellowship,
you who are broken and blessed,
you who show mercy
as God has first been merciful to you.

In Christ, we gather in blessing.

Come into God's presence,
singing for joy and for justice.

We gather to pray and to worship.

To God be the glory!

***HYMN 308** O God in Whom All Life Begins

NOEL

**Please rise in body or spirit*

pg. 2

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, who delivers people from their suffering,
you sent Jesus to show us that our ways are not your ways.
You told us to bless the poor,
to make peace with our neighbors,
to share what we have with others,
and to live our faith through quiet actions.
Yet we often fail this calling.
Forgive us, God, for all the ways
we have slipped into the world's practices and patterns
that lead to hate, greed, and violence.
Guide us into faithfulness once again,
for your ways are loving, just, and compassionate.
Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***BE THOU MY VISION**

SLANE

*Great God of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

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.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

James 1:19–27

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN 795 Healer of Our Every Ill

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 6:17–36

¹⁷ Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of the disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch Jesus, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at the disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as God is merciful.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Beth Langley, *contralto*

Lord of the Small

Words by Johanna Anderson, Music by Dan Forrest

*Praise to the Lord of the small, broken things,
Who sees the poor sparrow that cannot take wing,
Who loves the lame child, and the wretch in the street,
Who comforts their sorrows and washes their feet.*

*Praise to the Lord of the faint and afraid,
Who girds them with courage and lends them His aid;
He pours out His Spirit on vessels so weak
That the timid can serve and the silent can speak.*

*Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill,
Who heals their afflictions, or carries them till
They leave this tired frame and to paradise fly,
To never be sick, and never to die, never die.*

*Praise Him, O praise Him, all ye who yet live,
Who've been given so much and can so little give,
Our frail, lispng praise God will never despise:
He sees His dear children through mercy-filled eyes.*

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 772** Live into Hope

TRURO

**Please rise in body or spirit*

pg. 6

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Sortie

Richard Shephard

*Please join us in the Gathering Hall following worship
for snacks, coffee, and fellowship.*

Are you new to our church?

We would love to connect with you!
Please scan the QR code for our
digital welcome pad!



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....Michael and Susan Barbour

“This is the work of imagination: to envision a world remade by mercy, to trust that healing is possible even in the shadow of empire, and to practice love that outlasts despair. Lent calls us into this holy labor—not as a solitary act, but as a communal path toward transformation.”

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.

Brigid Boyle..... Parish Associate
Sarah McTyre.....Pastor
Sandra Murphy.....Music Director
Kenneth Pfeffer.....Building Manager
Briana Vaught.....Office and Communications Manager
Justin Vaught..... Finance Administrator/Bookkeeper

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