

PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



First Sunday of Christmas

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 29, 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

“Joy to the World!”

arr. Chip Davis

Sandra Murphy, *piano*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We have found joy this Christmas.

We have found joy in our community.

We have found joy in the coming of Christ.

God is in our joy.

God is here with us.

We have reason to celebrate.

We have a reason to sing.

Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

***HYMN 40** Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN 28** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN 29 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*HYMN 46 On This Day Earth Shall Ring

PERSONENT HODIE

THE SECOND LESSON

Psalm 148

¹ Praise God!

Praise God from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!

² Praise God, all you angels;
praise God, all you host!

³ Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise God, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Most High,
for God commanded and they were created.

⁶ God established them forever and ever
and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷ Praise the Most High from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Most High,
for God's name alone is exalted;
God's glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ God has raised up a horn for God's people,
praise for all God's faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to God.
Praise God!

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN 22** Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

***HYMN 59** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks CHRISTMAS

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of God stood before them, and the glory of God shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN 38** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear CAROL

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CELEBRATION OF JOY

*HYMN 57

The Snow Lay on the Ground

VENITE ADOREMUS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Masters in This Hall” (trad. French Carol)

arr. Mark Hayes

Sandra Murphy, *piano*

*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.*

**For Joy
A Blessing**

You can prepare,
but still
it will come to you
by surprise,

crossing through your doorway,
calling your name in greeting,
turning like a child
who quickens suddenly
within you.

It will astonish you
how wide your heart
will open
in welcome

for the joy
that finds you
so ready
and still so
unprepared.

—Jan Richardson
from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Fellowship Hour Josephine Ma

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
Lenora Joyner-Hayes Finance Administrator/Bookkeeper
Sarah McTyre.....Pastor
Sandra Murphy.....Keyboard Musician
Kenneth Pfeffer.....Building Manager
Briana Vaught.....Office and Communications Manager

Church Office Phone: (315) 475-1677 • 504 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, NY 13202-1922

Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, M-Th

Church Office Email: office@parkcentralchurch.org

Website: 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)