

# PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Star of Bethlehem by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art

*Celebration of the Epiphany*

## CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 4, 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

“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 150 As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

### 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 IN EXCELSIS DEO!**  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

GLORIA

### 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

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.**

\*HYMN 129 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

## 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.**

## SERMON

Rev. Sarah McTyre

## SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

### MUSICAL MEDITATION

I Wonder as I Wander

*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!*

Sandra Murphy, *voice and piano*  
arr. Doug Andrews

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF EPIPHANY

\*HYMN 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

arr. Andrew Fletcher

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

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](mailto:office@parkcentralchurch.org)

Website: [www.parkcentralchurch.org](http://www.parkcentralchurch.org) • Facebook: Park Central Presbyterian Church

Instagram: parkcentralsyr • TikTok: parkcentralchurch • Bluesky: parkcentralchurch.org