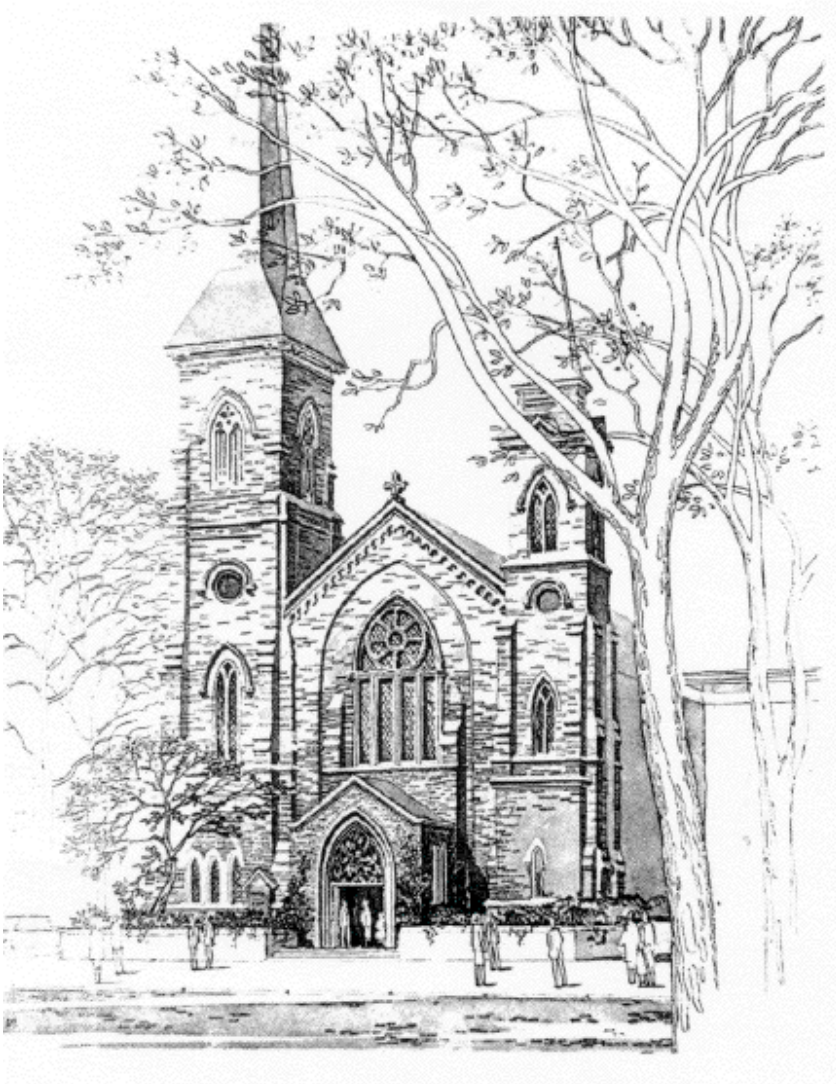


PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Baptism of Christ Sunday

BAPTISM OF CHRIST SUNDAY
JANUARY 7, 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

“Ancient Noël's From The French Provinces”

arr. Olive Nelson Russell

IV. Sixteenth-century Air from Sologne

(Chantons, je vous en prie, par exaltation)

V. Noël on an Ancient Air (Allez enfants, le jour a fui)

Dan Blumenthal, *violin*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of God has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light

and rulers to the brightness of your rising.

You shall see and be radiant.

Your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

God will be your everlasting light,

and our days of mourning shall be ended.

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

REGENT SQUARE

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

01/07/24

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The radiance of a star guided the wise men to the feet of Jesus where they offered their most precious gifts.

You have given us more than a star, O God, to guide us.

You have revealed your glory and your love in the person of Jesus - Light of the world.

We confess the times when we choose to go our own way rather than be guided by you –

the times when we are reluctant to allow the power and radiance of Christ to flow through us.

Strengthen us with your Spirit to be bearers of the light and to reveal your glory and love through all we say and do.

This we pray in Jesus' name. 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,

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 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of God has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but God will arise upon you,
and God's glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light
and rulers to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Most High.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN 62** Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love

EPIPHANY SONG

THE SECOND LESSON

Mark 1:1-11

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴ so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Sarah McTyre

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO ENGAGEMENT

MUSICAL MEDITATION

The Park Central Ensemble and Congregation

Take Us Home By Another Way

Christopher Grundy

Chorus:

Spirit, take us home

Take us home by another way,

Take us long way 'round the tyrants and their schemes,

Give us strength to walk

Show us dreams of a better day,

And we'll pave the way with justice

Going home by another way.

The mountains and the hills made low

The rough places made plain

The despots thrown down from their thrones

'Til only love remains. Chorus

No offerings for billionaires

To make them richer still

Bring all your frankincense and myrrh

That the hungry may be filled. Chorus

So when the Proud Boys and the Klan

Ask where the Christ child lies

Just tell 'em that you'll let them know

Next time you're passing by. Chorus

So, when things get tough and feet are tired

We'll know it'll be okay.

Cause we'll pave the way with justice

Going home by another way.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on ANTIOCH”

Lowell Mason
arr. Craig Phillips

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.

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

Our next Sound Bath through Arts at Park will be held on January 22 at 7pm. All are welcome to this relaxing and meditative event! More information can be found on the Arts at Park page on the church website.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist..... Briana Vaught
Fellowship Hour The Sapey family

Illuminate our hearts, O God,
with the radiance of Christ's presence,
that our lives may show forth his love in this weary world.

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

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

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