

PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE WORK OF
IMAGINATION

Holy Confrontation

Third Sunday in Lent

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 8, 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

Stimme eines Engels (Angel's Voice)

Louis Kron

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 abundance, you of great faith, and you who grasp at crumbs;
you who resist, and you who persist.

In Christ, we gather and are transformed.

Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice;
bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

In faith, we gather to praise!

***HYMN 756** O God of Every Nation

LLANGLOFFAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Please rise in body or spirit*

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy and compassion, we confess we have not always treated our neighbors, friends, or even family members with dignity. We have dehumanized others with our words. We have been critical when we should have been encouraging. We have told lies when we should have been honest with hard truths. We have excluded people when we should have widened the invitation. Forgive us for the ways that we have failed our neighbors, friends, and family with unkind words. Help us to live with minds open to truth and hearts open to love, that we may demonstrate your grace in all that we do.

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

Numbers 27:1-11

¹ Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. Zelophehad was son of Hephher son of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh, of the clans of Manasseh, son of Joseph. The names of his daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. ² They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying, ³ “Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among the congregation of those who gathered themselves together against God in the congregation of Korah but died for his own sin, and he had no sons. ⁴ Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father’s brothers.”

⁵ Moses brought their case before God. ⁶ And God spoke to Moses, saying, ⁷ “The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father’s brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them. ⁸ You shall also speak to the Israelites, saying: If a man dies and has no son, then you shall pass his inheritance on to his daughter. ⁹ If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰ If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. ¹¹ And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. It shall be for the Israelites a statute and ordinance, as God commanded Moses.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN 794 O Savior, in This Quiet Place
verses 1-4

ST. STEPHEN

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But Jesus did not answer her at all. And the disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Brigid Boyle

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Kyrie Eleison

Megan Hook, *soprano and tanpura*
setting by Megan Hook

Kyrie Eleison

Christe Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Gloria Patri, et Filio,

et Spiritui Sancto,

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,

et in saecula saeculorum. Amen

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever

shall be, world without end. Amen

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 372** O for a World

AZMON

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Largo (from *Xerxes*)

George Frideric Handel

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

*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!



Announcements for March 8, 2026

Scan here to donate!

Sunday, March 15

9:00 am Bible study
10:30 am Worship service
11:30 am Fellowship hour



Sound Bath

The next sound bath will be Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm. If you would like to walk the labyrinth, please come at 6:30. Wear *warm* comfy clothing and consider bringing a blanket. Come ready to relax!

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we will gather around the tables on the third floor at 6:00 pm for dinner and worship. We hope you'll join us!

LGBTQ+ Inclusion Workshops

The LGBTQ+ Inclusion Workshops have been rescheduled to April 19 and 26 and May 3. We hope you'll be able to join us then!

Save the Date

This year's Pride parade will be held on June 13, and we look forward to marching together as we celebrate and affirm the LGBTQ+ community!

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Fellowship HourBen Merchant

“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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**Please rise in body or spirit*

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