

PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
MARCH 2, 2025 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

"Berceuse" (Op. 40, No. 2)

Dan Blumenthal, *violin* and Sandra Murphy, *piano*

Amy Beach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Wherever God is, love is.

Wherever God's love is, hope is.

Hope is here

because God is present.

Hope and love are God's essential transformative forces.

Let us worship with joy and intention

that we might fulfill God's dream for us and for the world.

***HYMN 73** Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

GENEVA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Merciful God,

We come before You with humble hearts, confessing the ways we have fallen short of your call to love, include, and uplift one another.

Forgive us for the times we have built walls instead of bridges, for when we have let fear silence our compassion, and for when we have failed to stand with those who are suffering.

We confess that we have not always celebrated the richness of the community you have given us. Sometimes we have been quick to judge and slow to welcome. Other times we have withheld grace from those who need it most.

Have mercy on us, O God. Open our eyes to see as you see, our hearts to love as you love, and our hands to serve as you served. Help us to embody radical hospitality, inclusion, and justice. Fill us with your Spirit, and guide us more and more toward being a community where all are seen, valued, and embraced in your name.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***LIVE INTO HOPE**

TRURO

*Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.*

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

Nehemiah 1:4-11

⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵ I said, "O Most High God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants, the Israelites, confessing the sins of the Israelites, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. ⁷ We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded Moses your servant. ⁸ Remember the word that you commanded Moses your servant, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I have chosen to establish my name.' ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand. ¹¹ O God, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man!"

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair

Megan Hook, *soprano* and Beth Langley, *alto*
15th century English ballad
arr. "Stacey Plays Hymns"

*Oh, wondrous image, vision fair
of glory that the church may share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows,
where brighter than the sun he glows!*

*With Moses and Elijah nigh
the incarnate Lord holds converse high,
and from the cloud, the Holy One
says, "This is my beloved Son."*

*With shining face and bright array,
Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs above
who joy in God with perfect love.*

*And faithful hearts are raised on high
by this great vision's mystery;
for which in joyful song we raise
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.*

*O Father, with the eternal Son,
and Holy Spirit ever one,
we pray you, bring us by your grace
to see your glory face to face.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day God added to their number those who were being saved.

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Celebrating Community

Rev. Brigid Boyle

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

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 339 Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in F Major”

Dietrich Buxtehude, ed./arr. Dennis Eliot

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.

Following Fellowship Hour, all are welcome at the Mission Study gathering in the Dining Hall.

Announcements for March 2, 2025

Scan here to donate!

Wednesday, March 5

8:00 am Ash Wednesday service

Sunday, March 9

9:30 am Spiritual practice session

10:30 am Worship service

11:30 am Congregational meeting



Sound Bath

The next sound bath will be on Tuesday, March 11 at 7 pm. All are welcome!

Lent Offerings

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We will hold a brief service that morning on the third floor at 8:00 am that will include the imposition of ashes. All are welcome!

On the Sundays in Lent, March 9, 16, 23, and 30 and April 6 and 13, we will host a series on spiritual practices. These will be half-hour sessions beginning at 9:30 am. March 9 will be an introduction session, we will engage with a new practice on each of the next four Sundays, and on April 13 we will discuss the experience. Please join us, even if you are not able to make it to all six sessions. We hope this will enrich your Lenten season!

Congregational Meeting

Our corporation and congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, March 9. It will be in-person only to comply with New York State law. We will vote on nominations for the Board of Trustees, approve the minutes from the last meeting, and hear a report from the session about the 2025 budget. All are welcome!

Time Change

Daylight Saving Time begins next weekend! Don't forget to set your clocks forward before going to bed on Saturday, March 8.

Know Your Rights

We will be hosting a "Know Your Rights" training after worship on March 16. In this training we will learn how we can come beside our immigrant neighbors and help preserve their safety and dignity. All are welcome!

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.

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

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