

PARK CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

What Do You Fear?

INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT



WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF
HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK

Second Sunday of Advent

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 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

“Chorale Prelude on 'Es ist ein Ros entsprungen'“

Johannes Brahms

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather on this winter morning to hear about a God who is on the move.

We look for signs and listen for news that God is doing a new thing.

In these dark nights, we keep watch for glimmers of hope.

We ready our hearts to declare God's praise.

Together we wait for the light that has come into the world.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

Let us worship Emmanuel, God with us.

***HYMN 107** Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and living God,

we confess that we struggle to hold onto hope.

**We have every reason to believe that spring will come,
that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.**

**Please rise in body or spirit*

And yet, too often, hope slips through our fingers.
With anxious spirits we cry out to you,
“Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?
Will I ever make a difference?”
Soothe our troubled hearts and show us the places
where light glimmers in the darkness.
Show us the places where you are at work. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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 43:19-21

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,

**Please rise in body or spirit*

the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ 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 96** On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 11:1-11

¹ Now when Jesus had finished instructing the twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples

³ and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SILENT MOMENT OF REFLECTION

MUSICAL MEDITATION

What Child Is This

Megan Hook, *soprano*

GREENSLEEVES

*What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.*

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 94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Hyfrydol” - trad. Welsh

Sandra Murphy, *organ*

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

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.

Portions of today’s liturgy are adapted from materials by A Sanctified Art.

Robert Allen.....	Director of Arts and Technology
Brigid Boyle.....	Parish Associate
Sarah McTyre.....	Pastor
Sandra Murphy.....	Keyboard Musician
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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