

**PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

**WELCOME**

- As you settle in for a time of reflection and prayer, close your eyes for a moment. Imagine yourself sitting in the sanctuary at Park Central as worship begins on a Sunday morning.
- Take two or three deep breaths and feel the warmth of the sun streaming through the stained-glass windows. Listen for the sounds of the organ and the rustling of the dear people sitting around you.
- Know that God is present among us even when we are not worshipping together in our sanctuary.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Good morning, Lord.  
The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight,  
and I awaken from sleep  
into the light and grace of Christ.  
Thank you for this new day.  
Stay with me, I pray,  
shepherding me through all that the day will hold.  
Lead me into pleasant places,  
and give me the provisions I will need  
if I find myself in difficulty or danger.  
Whenever the cup of gladness overflows,  
help me to recognize that it is filled  
with your goodness and mercy.  
May I begin this day in trust and peace.  
Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.  
Worship God with gladness;  
come into God's presence with singing.  
Know that the Most High is God.

It is God who made us and to God we belong;  
We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.  
Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,  
And God's courts with praise.  
Give thanks to God,  
Bless God's name.  
For God is good;  
God's steadfast love endures forever,

And God's faithfulness to all generations.

~ Psalm 100

### **HYMN**

[Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us](#)

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

God knows our needs before we ask,  
and in our asking  
prepares us to receive the gift of grace.  
Let us open our hearts and confess our sin.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you  
with our whole heart and mind and strength;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The psalmist assures us  
that God's goodness and mercy will follow us,  
even pursue us,  
all the days of our life.  
As God's forgiven people,  
we receive this goodness and mercy.  
Let us live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

### **SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTIONS**

Second Lesson: John 9:1-41

For a contemplative reading from the gospel text, click on the link below.

This video includes visio divina, art, and original music. It invites stillness, connection to breath, and imagination.

[John 9 Visual Meditation](#)

First Lesson: Psalm 23

[Meditation from Sarah](#)

## **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

[The King of Love My Shepherd Is](#)

### **PRAYERS**

God, our faithful Shepherd,  
we depend on you for everything we need:  
for daily food, for guidance and protection,  
for healing in injury and comfort in sorrow.  
You respond in abundant provision.  
Thank you for your tender care of us.  
Thank you for soothing the wounds of this life.  
Thank you that in the presence of enemies,  
especially the last enemy of death,  
you are with us, as Shepherd, Host, Home.

Knowing your faithfulness in our lives,  
we bring before you the lives of others,  
the cares of this world,  
entrusting all things to your goodness and mercy.  
Bring healing to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit.  
Bring release to those who are held captive by anxiety or fear  
in these uncertain times.  
Bring comfort to all who are suffering.

We pray for people living precariously in the midst of this pandemic.  
Protect, we pray, first responders and medical professionals and  
all whose lives are made more vulnerable.

By the power at work in Christ,  
break down the walls of hostility and suspicion  
so that we may learn to live together  
more graciously and more generously.

Pursue us all with your goodness and faithful love  
until goodness and faithful love fills every heart  
and informs every action.  
We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.  
Amen.

**OFFERING**

As you consider what you have to give this week, sit quietly for a moment and consider how your cup overflows. How might you share goodness or mercy in the coming days?

To continue your financial gifts for the church's mission, you can send a check by mail or give online by clicking on the "Give Now" button on the church's website. Your gifts will make an impact as we continue to reach out and meet needs during this challenging time.

**A BLESSING**

May the love of God pursue you,  
the light of Christ enfold you,  
and the Holy Spirit keep you;  
as you dwell in the house of the Lord  
your whole life long.

Pieces of today's liturgy were adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* and the *Book of Common Worship*