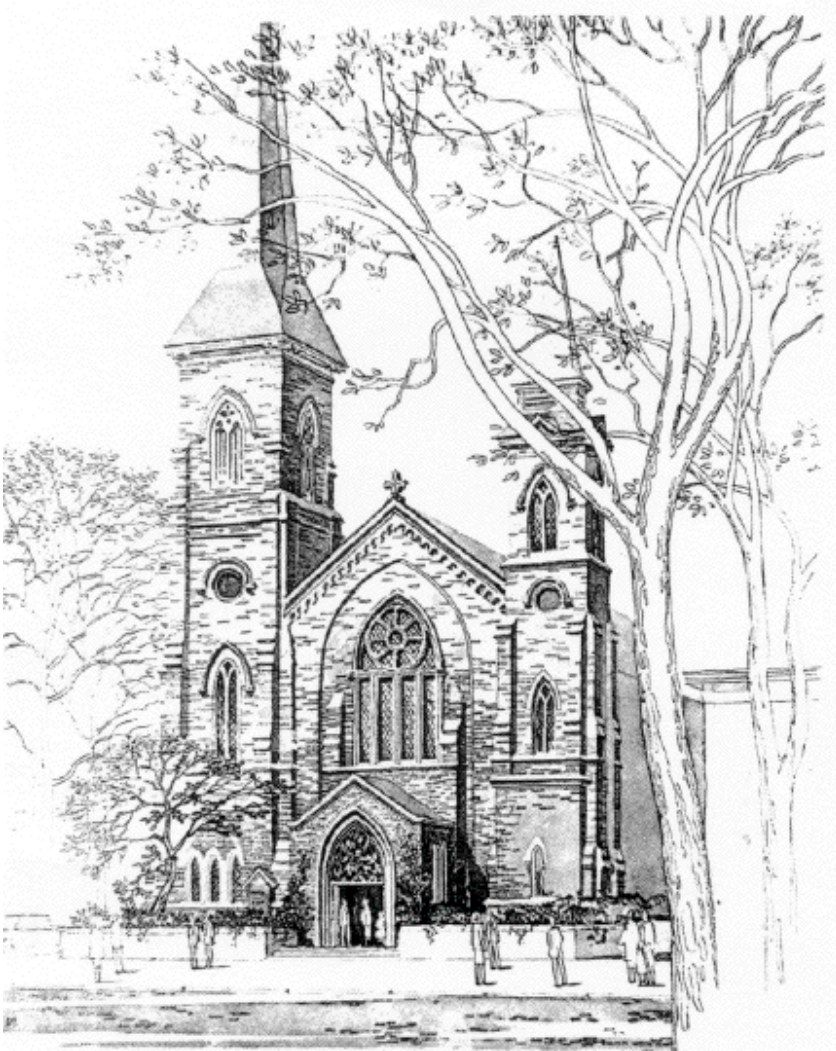


# PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 10:30 AM

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**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**

“Amazing Grace” (NEW BRITAIN)

Sandra Murphy, *piano*

arr. Joseph M. Martin

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in the presence of God  
to encounter the love that sets us free.

**We do not come seeking crumbs of justice  
but a way of life that liberates.**

Together, we practice courage in resisting evil  
and rejecting the temptation to keep silent.

**The Spirit leads us in power and truth.**

**The Word leads us by example.**

Our faith is placed in the one who lifts broken spirits  
and brings new life from places of ruin.

**With hope that is not fragile, we come to follow Christ.**

**\*HYMN 253** I'll Praise My Maker

OLD 113TH

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God,  
you made an ever-changing creation.  
Around us, the world cycles through its seasons  
of growth and death and rebirth.  
But God, change is hard.  
We confess the times we have been  
too arrogant to change our minds,  
too afraid to change our actions,  
and too stubborn to change our hearts.  
Lead us on a new path.  
Show us the beauty of change.  
Help us to start anew. 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

Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

Praise God, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise God as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in royalty,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Most High their God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry;  
who sets the prisoners free.

<sup>8</sup> God opens the eyes of the blind,  
lifts up those who are bowed down,  
and loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> God watches over the stranger  
and upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but brings the way of the wicked to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> God will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

Just As I Am

Kent Bradshaw, *baritone*

William B. Bradbury, arr. Brenda Portman

*Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown  
Hath broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Mark 7:24-37

<sup>24</sup> From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. Jesus entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about Jesus, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> Jesus said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup> But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged Jesus to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “Jesus has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Leader: This is the word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Briana Vaught, ministry intern

**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 280**     Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE (NEW BRITAIN)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea” (WOODWORTH)

arr. Kristina Rizzotto

*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.*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

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## **Announcements for September 8, 2024**

### **Wednesday, September 11**

12:00 pm Staff meeting

2:00 pm Mission, Membership, and Outreach committee meeting

### **Saturday, September 14**

11:00 am Block party

### **Sunday, September 15**

9:00 am Bible study (virtual)

10:30 am Worship service

11:30 am Fellowship hour

### **Block Party**

This year's block party will be held this Saturday, September 14 from 11 to 2. We'll have food, ice cream, face painting, games, and more! Please contact the office if you would like to help with setup or with various tasks during the event.

### **Sound Bath**

The next sound bath will be Monday, September 16 at 7 pm. More information is available on the Arts at Park page on the website. All are welcome!

### **Household Closet**

We will be moving the Household Closet to its new home beginning September 22 after worship. Please stay to help if you are able!

### **Age Well Day**

Park Central is partnering with other area organizations to host an Age Well Day on the topic of eating well. It will be held here on September 24 from 1-3 pm. All are welcome to attend, and we would love for people to volunteer to provide hospitality. Please contact the office if you are interested!

### **Church Clean-out**

Please sign up in the Gathering Hall for the church clean-out! We will use the information gathered to select the new date.

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Fellowship Hour .....Ben Merchant

Love springs from awareness.  
It is only inasmuch as you see someone  
as he or she really is here and now  
and not as they are in your memory or your desire  
or in your imagination or projection  
that you can truly love them.

~ *Anthony De Mello*

The Call to Worship was adapted from materials by enfleshed.

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](https://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

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Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, M-Th

Church Office Email: [office@parkcentralchurch.org](mailto:office@parkcentralchurch.org)

Website: [www.parkcentralchurch.org](http://www.parkcentralchurch.org) • Facebook: Park Central Presbyterian Church

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