

**PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 5**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**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.*
- *Let us still our hearts, quiet our minds, and come to worship God.*

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, the chaos of the world  
encircles and frightens us.  
We worry about tomorrow,  
even though you tell us not to be anxious.  
Send your Spirit to quiet our distractions  
and draw us to you so that we might know  
the peace of your close presence.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

I will bless God at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth  
I will glory in God;  
let the humble hear and rejoice.  
Proclaim with me the greatness of God;  
let us exalt the name of God together.

**HYMN**

**[Rejoice, the Lord Is King](#)**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

God, we do not understand our own actions.  
We do the very things we hate  
and yet with you there is forgiveness,  
with you there is mercy.  
Hear us as we humbly confess the ways we have gone astray —  
like lost sheep, seek us out and bring us home.



### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, you reveal your will to us  
through the Word and by the Spirit,  
but we refuse to listen and follow.  
We do the very things we hate  
and then feel trapped in guilt and shame.  
We long to know the abundant life Jesus came to give,  
but neglect to take up his yoke and learn from him.  
Forgive us for not doing that which we know to do.  
Forgive us for not being who you call and create us to be.  
Accept our confession and free us yet again  
from the burdens we can no longer bear.

*Pause and continue your prayers for a time in silence.*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Jesus said: “Come to me, all you that are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”  
Friends, believe the good news,  
through Jesus Christ you are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!

### **GLORIA**

#### **SCRIPTURE AND HOMILY**

First Lesson – Psalm 145:8-14

[read by Anita Wagner](#)

Second Lesson – Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



## [Homily](#)

### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

#### [I Will Lift Mine Eyes](#)

#### **PRAYERS**

Holy God, we enter this time of prayer  
mindful of our inability to be content.  
We are restless and dissatisfied,  
even when we have all we need and then some.  
Instead of giving thanks for that which we have,  
we lament that which we feel we lack.  
We burden ourselves with things  
that do not offer that which they promise.  
We burden others with expectations  
they cannot possibly meet.  
We burden creation with our relentless abuse  
of the earth and its creatures.  
As we pause to acknowledge our total dependence on you,  
reveal to us the abundance you pour out upon your people.

We rejoice in the myriad of colors  
that show your glory around every corner —  
the green leaves on the trees,  
the oranges and purples and pinks of blooming flowers,  
the flash of the red cardinal and the shiny black of the crow.  
Help us to stop and notice the beauty  
you so lavishly create and share.

We celebrate the goodness you embed in humanity.  
We look for the helpers, the healers,  
the teachers, mentors, leaders and encouragers  
who spend their lives looking to the interest of others,  
seeking to serve rather than be served.

We give thanks for those closest to us,  
the people who love us at our worst,  
cheer us when we are at our lowest,  
care for us when we are at our weakest  
and want for us what is best.  
They show us what it means  
to be called beloved and significant.

We praise you for the gift of this day,  
whatever it entails,  
knowing that you are present with us,



that Christ prays for us,  
that the Spirit intercedes for us.  
We rest in these promises —  
so that emboldened by your power  
we can share these truths with those  
yet to know of their priceless worth in your eyes.

We lament the suffering so pervasive in our world.  
We cry out to you with sighs too deep for words  
for those who go to bed hungry,  
the people fearing for their lives,  
the vulnerable too long exploited  
and your children denied justice.  
We lift up to you the sick and the broken-hearted,  
the lonely and the impoverished.  
As we are yoked to Christ,  
yoke us to those who need their burdens lightened  
and their souls refreshed.

We make our prayer  
in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
who taught us to say when we pray:  
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.

#### **HYMN**

[Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart](#)

#### **OFFERING**

*As you consider what you have to give this week, sit quietly for a moment and remember God's overflowing goodness and mercy.*

*The "Give Now" button on the church website has been temporarily disabled due to some technical problems. Until the button is working again, please send your donations by check to the church: 504 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, 13202. Your gifts will make an impact as we continue to reach out and meet needs during this challenging time.*



DOXOLOGY

BENEDICTION

Pieces of today's liturgy were adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook*.