

December 8, 2024



Go to him he calls you, you can't refuse
When you ain't got nothing, you got nothing to lose
You're invisible now, you've got no secrets to conceal

How does it feel, ah how does it feel?
To be on your own, with no direction home
Like a complete unknown, like a rolling stone

— Bob Dylan, “Like a Rolling Stone” (Track one from the
1965 album *Highway 61 Revisited*, emphasis added)

Far be it from us to think that we have virtues for which God could love us. But then, how magnificently we have repented!... Beaten out of this, we next offer our own humility to God's admiration. Surely He'll like that? Or if not that, our clear -sighted and humble recognition that we still lack humility. Thus, depth beneath depth and subtlety within subtlety, there remains some lingering idea of our own, our very own, attractiveness.

For this tangled absurdity of a Need, even a Need-love, which never fully acknowledges its own neediness, Grace substitutes a full, childlike and delighted acceptance of our Need, a joy in total dependence. **We become “jolly beggars”. The good man is sorry for the sins which have increased his Need. He is not entirely sorry for the fresh Need they have produced** And he is not sorry at all for the innocent Need that is inherent in his creaturely condition.

— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, (Ch 6:
“Charity”; 1960; emphasis added)

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: *St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*(1.26-31)

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written,

"LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (all 3 verses)

#203

“What Child is This” (all 3 verses)

#213

11:15 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

-Wesley/Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With th’angelic hosts proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ by highest heav’n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord.
Now in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth; born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

11:15 “Noel”

-Tomlin, Cash, Redman

Love incarnate, love divine. Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to Babe on bended knee, the Savior of humanity
Unto us a Child is born. He shall reign forevermore

Noel, Noel. Come and see what God has done
Noel, Noel. The story of amazing love!
The Light of the world, given for us. Noel

Son of God and Son of man, there before the world began
Born to suffer, born to save, born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord. He shall reign forevermore

Noel, Noel. Come and see what God has done
Noel, Noel. The story of amazing love!
The Light of the world, given for us. Noel

Noel, Noel. The story of amazing love!
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The Light of the world, given for us. Noel

The Prayers of God's People

Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word. (Isaiah 66.1-2)

Our Father, You created all the galaxies. Heaven and earth are Yours to admire but You prefer to gaze upon the hearts of the repentant; grant us *that* grace: **(Silence)**

Lord Jesus Christ, King and Lord of all creation, we praise You for coming for us, humbling Yourself and dwelling among us to be our Great High Priest: **(Silence)**

Holy Spirit, work the beautiful humility of Jesus Christ into our hearts; make us humble, contrite of spirit and awe-filled at Your Word: **(Silence)**

Triune God, uphold Your servants, Jeni Carpenter in Ireland and Jenny Sorondo in Burundi; bless them with deep friendships and joy as they are away from us during this season: **(Silence)**

Now together we pray as the Beloved taught His disciples to pray, saying:

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.

The Declaration of Faith and Offering:

(In the Declaration of Faith and Offering we respond to God, giving back the truth that He has put in our hearts and the resources He has put in our pockets. Please use this time and the musical reflection to pray, give and consider what God is doing in your life.)

The Advent Reading: *Christ, the Priest** (Hebrews 9.11-12)

Reader: *“But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”*

How does Christ carry out the office of a priest?

People: Christ carries out the office of a priest, in His once offering up of Himself, a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God and in making continual prayer for us.

Response: “The Doxology”

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*This reading is taken from the doctrinal statement or “catechism” of the Presbyterian Church in America, *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*. It was composed in 1647 by a large group of pastors and theologians in England.

9:00 “I Wonder As I Wander”

- arr. Hayes

(Piano solo—Debbie Arce Carr)

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor, ornery people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all,
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor, ornery people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

11:15 “Love Came Down”

- Riddle, Edwardson, McIntosh, Johnson

If my heart is overwhelmed and I cannot hear Your voice
I hold on to what is true, although I cannot see
If the storms of life they come and the road ahead gets steep
I will lift these hands in faith. I will believe

I'll remind myself of all that You've done
And the life I have because of Your Son

**Love came down and rescued me
Love came down and it set me free
I am Yours. I am forever Yours
Mountains high or valley low
I sing out and remind my soul
I am Yours. I am forever Yours**

When my heart is filled with hope and every promise comes my way
When I feel Your hands of grace rest upon me
Staying desperate for You, God, staying humble at Your feet
I will lift these hands in praise. I will believe

I'll remind myself of all that You've done
And the life I have because of Your Son
(Chorus)

I am Yours. I am Yours
and for all my days, Jesus, I am Yours
(Repeat)

(Chorus)

The Scripture Reading: 2nd Kings 6.24 —7.17

Now it came about after this, that Ben-hadad king of Aram gathered all his army and went up and besieged Samaria. ²⁵ There was a great famine in Samaria; and behold, they besieged it, until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a fourth of a kab (a pint) of dove's dung for five shekels of silver.

^{7.1} Then Elisha said, "Listen to the word of the LORD; thus says the LORD, "Tomorrow about this time a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.'" ² The royal officer on whose hand the king was leaning answered the man of God and said, "Behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" Then Elisha said, "Behold, you will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat of it."

³ Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why do we sit here until we die? ⁴ "If we say, 'We will enter the city,' then the famine is in the city and we will die there; and if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us go over to the camp of the Arameans. If they spare us, we will live; and if they kill us, we will but die."⁵ They arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Arameans; when they came to the outskirts of the camp of the Arameans, behold, there was no one there. ⁶ For the Lord had caused the army of the Arameans to hear a sound of chariots and a sound of horses, even the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us."⁷ Therefore the army of the Arameans arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents and their horses and their donkeys, even the camp just as it was, and fled for their life. ⁸ When these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they entered one tent and ate and drank, and carried from there silver and gold and clothes, and went and hid them; and they returned and entered another tent and carried from there also and went and hid them.

⁹ Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household."¹⁰ So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and they told them, saying, "We came to the camp of the Arameans, and behold, there was no one there, nor the voice of man, only the horses tied and the donkeys tied, and the tents just as they were."¹¹ The gatekeepers called and told it within the king's household. ¹² Then the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "I will now tell you what the Arameans have

done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone from the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, 'When they come out of the city, we will capture them alive and get into the city.'" ¹³ One of his servants said, "Please, let some men take five of the horses which remain, which are left in the city. Behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who are left in it; behold, they will be in any case like all the multitude of Israel who have already perished, so let us send and see." ¹⁴ They took therefore two chariots with horses, and the king sent after the army of the Arameans, saying, "Go and see." ¹⁵ They went after them to the Jordan, and behold, all the way was full of clothes and equipment which the Arameans had thrown away in their haste. Then the messengers returned and told the king. ¹⁶ So the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans. Then a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁷ Now the king appointed the royal officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate; but the people trampled on him at the gate, and he died just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks Be to God!

Sermon

T.J. Campo

The Books of Kings | God, the Government and the Gospel

Lepers Fat and Happy or Stooges in Graceland

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “Beloved in Christ Rejoice” (all 3 verses)

-See screen

(Opening phrase of each verse changed to “ Beloved in Christ, rejoice)

11:15 “What Child is This?”

-Dix

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.**

Nails and spear shall pierce Him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.
(Chorus)

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone Him:
(Chorus x2)

The Babe, the Son of Mary
The Babe, the Son of Mary

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

Sermon Schedule

The Books of Kings | God, the Government and the Gospel

As the US heads into the final days of the current presidential election, we are reminded that our nation continues to be badly divided. As politics takes on a religious intensity, many are anxious about our political future. The dismal political situation in ancient Judah and Israel makes our present troubles look small. Kings rise and fall rapidly. Kings who trust in and heed God's prophets flourish; kings who won't believe fail. The downward spiral is the only constant. And yet, in the gloom of human failing, dawns the divine Light, the perfect Government and His Gospel changes everything!

Sunday Class Schedule: NOVEMBER—DECEMBER

Big Ideas For All Ages This innovative class for the **entire family** will teach basic Christian ideas to adults, parents and children. Our hope is to keep each session conversational, interactive and engaging for **children and adults**. You don't HAVE to be a parent to attend but we hope ALL parents will attend and get better equipped to help your children in their walk with God. Children are encouraged to attend. Taught by Phil Letizia, T.J. Campo, and Alexa Cannella in the Fellowship Hall.

Inquirer's Class | Led by T. J. Campo | Library

This is our "Park Road 101" class where you have the opportunity to hear from TJ about the belief statements of our Church, the membership commitments, and foundational beliefs of the Christian faith. This 8-week class is required for anyone interested in membership at our Church. Please join us or invite others! If you have questions, please reach out to TJ at tj@standrewspca.com

Children Sunday School

Nursery care is available for children 3 and younger. We encourage your children to join you for our new Sunday School class, 'Big Ideas For All Ages'.

THIS WEEK AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

Welcome to Park Road Pres! We are glad to have you with us today.

Sunday	9:00, 11:15 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Sunday Classes
	1:00 PM	S.A.L.T. Lunch Bunch @ Sal's Italian Ristorante
Monday	6:00 PM	Men's Fellowship (Narthex)
	7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study (Narthex) Contact David King at ironaeus@aol.com
	7:00 PM	Anxiety Support Group (Library)
Tuesday	6:30 PM	PRYouth Group
Thursday	10:00 AM	Women's Prayer Time via Zoom Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
	6:30 PM	ESL Classes
Saturday	11:30 AM	SALT Christmas Luncheon (See below)
	2-5 PM	Christmas Open House at Campos (See page 13)

SALT (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) Lunch Bunch | 1:00 pm

Each Sunday after the 11:15 AM service the SALT group goes out to lunch! Join them today at Sal's Italian Ristorante located at 2908 Oakwood Blvd, Hollywood, 33020. Carpooling is recommended.

Anxiety Support Group | Mon., Dec. 9 | 7:00-8:00 pm | Library

Join a supportive group of adults (within the membership and from outside) who meet on the 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00 pm, to help encourage one another in dealing with anxiety.

S.A.L.T. Christmas Luncheon | Sat. Dec. 14 | 11:30 AM | Tropical Acres

SALT Christmas Luncheon will be at Tropical Acres located at 2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, 33312. Sign up on the ***Keeping In Touch*** form and note your meal preference; grilled salmon OR Chicken Cordon Bleu. Cost is \$25 per person, due TODAY. Contact Jane Green at 954-709-9904 for more information.

UOCOMING AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

Christmas Open House at Campos | Sat., Dec. 14 | 2-5 PM

Drop by between 2:00-5:00 to say "Hi." Park at the church and walk over to the manse located at 3418 Pierce Street. Please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form if you plan to visit.

Family Christmas Party | Tues., Dec. 17 | 6:00-8:00 PM

Park Road families —we are having a Christmas party that the whole family is invited. We will have dinner for everyone followed by Christmas games for the whole family. So put on your best Christmas sweater and we'll see you there!

Cancer Support Group | Wed., Dec. 18 | 6:30-7:30 pm | Library

This peer support group is for anyone affected by cancer. Join us on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm to share experiences and offer support, encouragement, and prayer. Any questions contact Joanne Gulum at jgulum007@aol.com

Volunteers for Christmas Eve Service | Tues., Dec. 24 | 5:00 PM

We are in need of volunteers to work the Nursery (infant-3 years old) during the Christmas Eve Service. If you are available that evening, please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. (Background checks through the church are required to work with children. Please see Alexa Cannella, Children's Ministry Director, if you need one done.)

Christmas Eve Service | Tues., Dec. 24 | 5:00 PM

Join us for our candlelight Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm.

Annual Camping Trip | Feb. 20-23, 2025 | Fisheating Creek -Palmdale, FL

All are welcome to join us! If you would like more information please contact Mike Carpenter at 954-325-5468. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form if you would like to attend.

2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex for members who give in-person or by mail. Envelopes are not ordered for donations made online or by automatic bank withdrawal.

Congratulations to Erik and Eunice Reed on the birth of their first grandchild. They are overjoyed at the arrival of Sebastian Elias Tejeda to their daughter, Kristina & son-in-law, Christian. Sebastian was born on December 5th at 12:41 pm, weighing 7lbs 13 oz.

Orchid:

The orchid today is given by Warren Hermes in remembrance of his father. If you would like to purchase (\$30) an orchid for 2025 to be placed in the Sanctuary for a special occasion, fill out your request on the ***Keeping in Touch Form***.

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