



May 18, 2025

## A Reflection Before the Service

People say there are no atheists in foxholes. A lot of people think this is a good argument against atheism. Personally, I think it's a much better argument against foxholes.

— Kurt Vonnegut

Atheism is an abnormality. It is not merely the denial of a dogma. It is the reversal of a subconscious assumption in the soul; the sense that there is a meaning and a direction in the world it sees.

— G.K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man* (1925; p.164)

When I showed up at Cambridge for my undergrad degree, I had a secret. I'd been a follower of Jesus for as long as I could remember. But as soon as I was old enough to have romantic feelings, they'd homed in on other girls. I'd hoped it was just a phase. After all, I was in single-sex education. Maybe I just hadn't met enough guys. I told myself that when I went to university, I'd start to fall for men. But my feet had barely touched the ground at Cambridge when I started having feelings for a female friend...

Given my own lifelong history of same-sex attraction, you might think my conclusion—that the Bible leaves no room for followers of Jesus to pursue same-sex sexual relationships—makes this short book a tragedy. You might even think this book is an attempt to foster hatefulness toward those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or queer. But it is not. Instead of urging anybody toward hatred (of themselves or others), I hope instead to point us all to Jesus' love. And with Jesus' death-defying, life-creating, never-ending love at the center of the picture, I want to sketch a vision from the Bible of deep, joyful, Christ-exalting love between believers of the same sex: not a love that mimics marriage but a no less precious, different kind of love.

— Rebecca McLaughlin, *Does the Bible Affirm Same-Sex Relationships? Examining 10 Claims about Scripture and Sexuality* (2024)

...we must present "the whole Christ" when we both pastor individuals and speak to the world about sexuality and gender today. Jesus is full of grace and truth. In pastoral care we must not apply the truth so harshly as to be callously alienating or so indirectly that the truth is never clearly grasped.

**The "grace and truth" path to which we point the church in this Report is not an easy one.**

— Forty-Seventh General Assembly Of The Presbyterian Church In America Ad Interim Committee On Human Sexuality (May 2020)

## The Prelude

## The Welcome and Announcements

## The Call to Worship: The Nineteenth Psalm (1-6; NLT)

The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.

They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard.

Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.

God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.

It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding.

It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end.

Nothing can hide from its heat.

(Prayer)

## The Opening Hymns of Praise

**9:00 “God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory”** (all 4 verses) #122

**“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”** (all 4 verses) #165

Lyrics on #165 but sung to a different tune: HANOVER

**11:15 “He is Worthy”** - Tomlin

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)  
But do you know that all the dark won't  
Stop the light from getting through? (We do)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)  
Is all creation groaning? (It is)  
Is a new creation coming? (It is)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)  
Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is He worthy of this? (He is)  
Does the Father truly love us? (He does)  
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)  
Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave  
From every people and tribe  
Every nation and tongue  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God  
To reign with the Son  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
Of all blessing and honor and glory  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?  
Is He worthy of this? He is! He is!

**11:15** "Goodness of God"

- Ingram / Johnson / Cash / Fielding / Johnson

I love You, Lord oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice You have lead me through the fire  
In darkest night You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God

(Chorus)

Bridge

Your goodness is running after it's running after me  
Your goodness is running after it's running after me  
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after it's running after me  
(Repeat)

And all my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God

I will sing of the goodness of God

## The Prayers of God's People

Reader: In adoration of God, let us pray:

All: Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created<sup>1</sup>.  
(silence)

Reader: In confession of our sin, let us pray:

All: Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?<sup>2</sup> (silence)

Reader: In praise of the gospel of our salvation, let us pray:

All: As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.<sup>3</sup> (silence)

Reader: In seeking help for people in need, let us pray:

All: That they may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.<sup>4</sup> (silence)

Reader: Our Father, receive now the fruit of our lips and the fruit of our labors. Fill us with joy as we give back to You what You have first given to us, because of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 4.11; <sup>2</sup> Psalm 130.1-3; <sup>3</sup> Psalm 103.11-14; <sup>4</sup> Colossians 1.9-10

## The Declaration of Faith and Offering:

### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by Whom all things were made;  
Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;  
Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;  
Who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### 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.

\*The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer false teachings that denied the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ.

9:00 **“Christ Our Hope In Life And Death”** – Getty, Boswell, Kauflin, Merker, Papa, ar. Angerman

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to Him belong  
Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us 'til the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand

O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, our God is good  
Where is His grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?  
(CHORUS)

Unto the grave, what shall we sing?  
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with Him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore  
(CHORUS)

11:15 "Though You Slay Me"

-Barnard, Barnard, Chandler, Moore, 2013

I come, God, I come, I return to the Lord  
The one who's broken, the one who's torn me apart  
You strike down to bind me up. You say You do it all in love  
that I might know You in Your suffering.

Though You slay me, yet I will praise You  
Though You take from me, I will bless Your name  
Though You ruin me, still I will worship  
Sing a song to the one who's all I need

My heart and flesh may fail, the earth below give way.  
With my eyes, with my eyes I'll see the Lord  
Lifted high upon that day, behold, the Lamb that was slain,  
and I'll know every tear was worth it all.  
Chorus

Though tonight I'm crying out, "Let this cup pass from me now"  
You're still more than I need  
You're enough for me, You're enough for me  
You're enough for me, You're enough for me  
Chorus

Sing a song to the one who's all I need

## The Scripture Reading: *St. Paul's Letter to the Romans*, 1.18ff

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup> For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, <sup>27</sup> and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

<sup>28</sup> And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be To God!

The Sermon

- T. J. Campo

The Letter to Rome| Slaves Freed to Love  
"The Bad Trade"

## The Closing Hymn

**9:00 “Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners”** (v 1,2,3,5)

#498

11:15 **“Your Name and Your Renown”**

–Barrow, Diggerness, 1998

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of Your love (echo)  
Yes, Lord, walking in the way of Your love (echo)  
We wait for You, Yes, we wait for You

And Your name and Your renown are the desire of our hearts  
And the earth it will resound with Your glory  
And Your name and Your renown are the desire of our souls  
And Your gospel will go forth ‘til the nations know  
The glory of Your Son

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of Your love (echo)  
Yes, Lord, walking in the way of Your love (echo)  
We wait for You, Yes, we wait for You

And Your name and Your renown are the desire of our hearts  
And the earth it will resound with Your glory.  
And Your name and Your renown are the desire of our souls  
And Your gospel will go forth ‘til the nations know  
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## The Benediction and Amen

## The Postlude

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## SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

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### SERMON SERIES

#### The Letter to Rome | Slaves Freed to Love

One author called it "the greatest letter ever written", another titled it "The Explanation".

**St. Paul's Letter to the Romans** is undoubtedly one of the most influential documents ever produced. The basic theme (the gift of God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ) is a power we need to discover and daily re-discover as it impacts all relationships, decisions and desires in our lives. It's about slaves (sin) freed (salvation) to love (service) – tune in!

May 11 — Gospel Desire — Rom 1.1-17

May 18 — The Bad Deal — Rom 1.18—3:2

May 25 — The Universal Contagion — Rom 3.1-20

### SUNDAY CLASSES | 10:10-11:05 AM

#### **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!

#### **Genesis - From Paradise to Prison | Led by John Stevenson | Fellowship Hall**

The Book of Genesis is foundational, both to the Bible as well as to so many issues that we face today: Who am I and why am I here? Questions of ecology, of marriage and family dynamics, of race relations, of peace in the Middle East, of legal and illegal immigration, and the list goes on. But through the entire story, there runs a promise that will bring about a world transformation. That means Genesis is a book of hope. And we hope to have you join us for the journey.

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## THIS WEEK AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

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

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|-----------|----------------|--|
| Sunday    | 9:00, 11:15 AM | Worship Service  |
|           | 10:15 AM       | Sunday Classes   |
| Monday    | 6:00 PM        | Men's Fellowship (Narthex)   |
|           | 7:00 PM        | Men's Bible Study (Narthex)<br>Contact David King at ironaeus@aol.com                            |
| Tuesday   | 6:30 PM        | PRYouth  |
|           | 6:30 PM        | Women's Online Bible Study<br>Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635                                  |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM        | Men's Bible Study on Ephesians (via Zoom)<br>Contact Nate Dorn at ndorn1@gmail.com               |
|           | 11:30 AM       | S.A.L.T. Movie: Miss Rose White (Library)  |
|           | 6:00 PM        | Jam Session w/ Band (Sanctuary)  |
| Thursday  | 6:30 PM        | Cancer Support Group (Library)   |
|           | 9:15 AM        | Women's In-person Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)<br>Contact: Grace Sked at grace@parkroadpres.org |
|           | 11:15 AM       | Women's Prayer Time via Zoom<br>Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635                                |
|           | 6:30 PM        | ESL Classes  |

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### SALT Movie: Miss Rose White | Wed., May 21 | 11:30 AM

Join the S.A.L.T. group as they gather on Wednesday, May 21 to watch the movie, Miss Rose White. Bring your own snack to enjoy. Sign up on the Keeping in Touch form.

### Park Road Worship Team Interest Jam Session | Wed., May 21 | 6:00-7:30 PM

Here is an invitation to jam, whether you're new or returning to participate in the Worship Team. Mark your calendars for May 21st at 6:00 PM and we'll meet you in the Sanctuary. Please pick up a flyer in the Narthex to fill out the form in the QR code.

### VBS is HAPPENING!!! | June 23-27 | 9AM -12 PM

We need YOU! Kids ages 4-11 years old — join us for a fun-filled week of learning how to live like Christ. Youth and adults—please lend a helping hand to make this the best week ever! Use the QR code on the table in the Narthex to register your children and/or sign up to be a volunteer.

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## UPCOMING at PARK ROAD

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### Women's Ministry - Baby Bottle Boomerang

Hope Women's Centers has been helping women navigate through tough pregnancy decisions for 38 years. Hope Women's Centers ministers to women in Broward County through three medical clinics. They connect women with community partners to help with resources they need to have a healthier, more productive future. We will be partnering with this ministry for the next month to raise money that will go directly to supporting women in unexpected / crisis pregnancies. Pick up a Baby Bottle from the Narthex and fill it up with coins, cash, or a check! Drop it back off by Father's Day, June 15th. Contact Alexa Cannella if you have any questions.

### Cancer Support Group | Wed., May 21 | 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](mailto:jgulum007@aol.com)

### Moms Connect | Sat., May 31 | 9:30—11:30 am | Rec Room

All moms are invited to join Jenny Letizia & Meegan Dorn at the church in the Rec Room (2nd floor) for a time of prayer and fellowship. Moms of all different seasons of life are invited and childcare is provided.

### SALT (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) Lunch Bunch | Sun., May 25 | 1:00 pm

Once a month on Sunday after the 11:15 AM service the SALT group goes out to lunch! Join them on May 25 at Chuy's located at 10610 Pines Blvd, Building P9, Pembroke Pines, 33026.

### The Bible Recap | Wed., June 4 | 7:00-8:15 pm | Library

Contact Dottie Wobb at 954-649-7930 for info on this women's in-person Bible study meeting once a month.

### Anxiety Support Group | June 9 | 7:00-8:00 pm | Library

Join a supportive group of adults (within the membership and from outside) to help encourage one another in dealing with anxiety. This will be their last meeting until the Fall when they will resume.

### Orchid:

Today's orchid is given by Angie Carey and Donna Ruddock in memory of their 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.

