

September 14, 2025

A Reflection Before the Service

What oxygen is to the lungs, such is **hope** to the meaning of life.

— Emil Bruner (1889-1966)

Who will unravel this tangle? Nature confutes the skeptics, and reason confutes the dogmatists. What then will you become, O men! who try to find out by your natural reason what is your true condition? You cannot avoid one of these sects, nor adhere to one of them.

Know then, proud man, what a paradox you are to yourself. Humble yourself, weak reason; be silent, foolish nature; learn that man infinitely transcends man, and learn from your Master your true condition, of which you are ignorant. Hear God.

— Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*, (compiled 1670)

If you would be growing Christians, be humble Christians. It is observed in some countries, as in France, the best and largest grapes, which make wine, grow on the lower sort of vines; so the humble saints grow most in grace. 'God giveth grace to the humble.'

Would it not be an encouragement to a citizen, to hear his prince say to him, "You will honor and please me very much, if you will go to my gold mine, and dig as much gold for yourself as you can carry away"? So, for God to say, "Go to the Word, worship, the Sacraments, prayer and get as much grace as you can, dig out as much salvation as you can; and the more happiness you have, the more I shall count Myself glorified!"

— Thomas Watson (1620-1686), *A Body of Divinity* (lightly modernized; emph. added)

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: *The One-Hundredth Psalm*— A Psalm for Thanksgiving.

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.

Serve the LORD with gladness;

Come before Him with joyful singing.

Know that the LORD Himself is God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving

And His courts with praise.

Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

For the LORD is good;

His lovingkindness is everlasting

And His faithfulness to all generations.

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” (all 5 verses, ladies-v2, men-v3)

#76

9:00 “Depth of Mercy” (all 5 verses)

– Wesley

Depth of mercy! Can there be
mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear?
me, the chief of sinners, spare?

I have long withstood His grace,
long provoked Him to His face;
would not hearken to His calls,
grieved Him by a thousand falls.

I my Master have denied;
I afresh have crucified,
oft profaned His hallowed Name,
put Him to an open shame.

There for me the Savior stands,
shows His wounds and spreads His hands.
God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps, but loves me still!

Now incline me to repent,
let me now my fall lament;
now my foul revolt deplore!
weep, believe, and sin no more.

11:15 “Victory Belongs to Jesus”

-Dulaney, 2016

Who can stand against the Lord? No one can and no one will.
Who can stand against the King? No one can and no one will.

Oh, oh, oh! Oh, oh, oh! The victory belongs to Jesus. The victory belongs to Him.
Oh, oh, oh! Oh, oh, oh! The victory belongs to Jesus. The victory belongs to Him.
(Repeat song from beginning)

So we put our trust in You. We put our hope in You.

You will deliver, You're my Provider I find my victory in You.
Forever victorious, forever we win I find my victory in You.
(Repeat)

The victory belongs to Jesus. The victory belongs to Him.
The victory belongs to Jesus. The victory belongs to Him.
(Repeat x2)

Oh, oh, oh! Oh, oh, oh! The victory belongs to Jesus. The victory belongs to Him.
(Repeat)

11:15 “Praise to the Lord the Almighty”

-Neander, 1680

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yes, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise the Lord! (Repeats)

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again; gladly fore'er we adore Him.

Praise the Lord! (Repeats)

The Confession of Sin:

Reader: Almighty Father; we enter Your presence confessing the things we try to conceal from You, the things we try to hide from others and what we try to ignore about ourselves, our own failings, sins and flaws.

People: We confess the heartbreak, worry, and sorrow we have caused, that make it difficult for others to forgive us, the times we have made it easy for others to sin, the harm we have done that makes it hard for us to fathom that we are forgiven by God.

Reader: Lord, have mercy and renew us through Jesus Christ, the Beloved. Amen.

(Silent confession)

Assurance of Grace and Pardon in Jesus Christ: *Romans 5.8-9*

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

The Prayers of God's Redeemed People:

We thank You, O God, that You did not wait for us to shape up and qualify for Your grace but that while we were guilty and disobedient, You sent Christ for us: **(silent prayer)**

We thank You, Father, that You have a purpose for all You do, that You are the God who can bring beauty out of ashes and joy out of sorrow: **(silent prayer)**

We pray for our nation, state, cities and neighborhoods, for those who serve and govern and for those who are shouldering great burdens: **(silent prayer)**

We pray for our own lives, families and neighbors: **(silent prayer)**

The Declaration of Faith and Offering: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians, CH. 1 and 2

*(*We use the declaration of faith and offering to "preach to ourselves" the reason for our hope. The Christian's confidence is in God's truth and in God's care. Because Park Road is a church for both convinced Christians and for people at different stages in their spiritual journey, we invite you to use this time and the musical reflection to think, pray, offer and consider what God is doing in your life.)*

Reader: For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

People: *And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -*

Reader: all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church;

People: *and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.*

Reader: For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross;

People: *through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,*

Reader: and in Him you have been made complete.

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.**

9:00 “Shall We Learn to Be Friends”

- Medema, arr. Burroughs

You are my sister,
Even when I hardly know you.
You are my brother,
Even when I hardly show you.

**You're in my family,
In Him, you're kin to me.
Now you are one with me.
Shall we learn to be friends?**

You are my mother
When I fall and when I'm hurting.
You are my father,
Please forgive me my deserting.

(CHORUS)

I need you near me when my hope is gone,
My hope is gone.
Come lift me up and help me carry on,
Yes, carry on.
Then, when you're weak, you'll find me by your side,
Right by your side to comfort you
And see you through.

You are my daughter,
It matters not your race or nation.
You are my son, my own,
May we embrace in celebration.

(CHORUS)

11:15 “I Am Yours”

Tealy, Daigle, Duncan, Mabury

I see Your fingerprints. The work of Your hands, it's all in Your hands.
I see the evidence leaving nothing to chance, the world's in Your hands.

So I rest in Your promises. Now I am sure of this: I'm Yours!

**Let the waters rise, I will stand as the oceans roar.
Let the earth shake beneath me, let the mountains fall.
You are God over the storm and I am Yours!**

I hear the voice of love calling me home to where I belong.
It cripples every fear and the ones who will kneel will walk away healed.

So I rest in Your promises. Now I am sure of this: I'm Yours!
No power is strong enough to separate me from Your love. I'm Yours.

(Chorus)

Even the thunder and the wind obey at the command of my Father, Father.
I set my feet upon Your mighty name. So let the rain fall harder, harder.
So take my everything, my flesh and blood, I'll lay me down on the altar, altar.
I am forever covered in Your love; so let the rain fall.

(Chorusx2)

You are God over the storm and I am Yours!

The Scripture Reading: *Second Kings 13.14-23*

When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash the king of Israel came down to him and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"¹⁵ Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows.¹⁶ Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." And he put his hand on it, then Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands.¹⁷ He said, "Open the window toward the east," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot!" And he shot. And he said, "The LORD'S arrow of victory, even the arrow of victory over Aram; for you will defeat the Arameans at Aphek until you have destroyed them."¹⁸ Then he said, "Take the arrows," and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground," and he struck it three times and stopped.¹⁹ So the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Aram until you would have destroyed it. But now you shall strike Aram only three times."

²⁰ Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.²¹ As they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.

²² Now Hazael king of Aram had oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.²³ But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them or cast them from His presence until now.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be to God!

Hope In Disappointing Times | ***Second Kings***
“The Restorer”

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “Great is Thy Faithfulness” (all 3 verses)

#32

11:15 “Our Song From Age to Age”

-Sczebel, 2012

Oh God of power, Living Word, the One who made the stars,
Who with Your glory filled the earth, from dust made beating hearts;
You loved us when we fell away, poured mercy on our souls,
and promised grace would come to save, to loose death's iron hold.

You are our song from age to age,
our voices unite to recount Your praise again and again.

Oh God of promises fulfilled, the God who took on flesh,
Who did all that the Father willed, was humbled unto death;
You bore our cross of sin and shame, endured our agony.
With gladness we now bear Your name and worship at Your feet.

**You are our song from age to age,
our voices unite to recount Your praise again and again.
You are our song from age to age.
We will proclaim Your power to save again and again.**

Oh God who surely guides our steps through tempests and through trials,
our Shepherd King, Your way is best, though tears now veil our eyes.
Your steadfast love our perfect hope, our eyes are fixed on grace.
We have no doubt You'll lead us home to finally see Your face.

(Chorus)

Oh God of all of history, enthroned in realms of light,
what eyes of faith have strained to see will one day fill our sight.
With all the saints we'll lay our crowns before the Savior's feet
And sing as all the heav'ns resound for all eternity.

(Chorus)

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS TODAY

Hope In Disappointing Times | ***Second Kings***

How are you feeling about the state of the Modern World? On one hand, there are untold comforts, conveniences, cures and conquests over the things that have long plagued humanity. On the other hand, we feel a bit nervous about these times, anxious about new technologies and how they may be misused. Wars and political uncertainties seem to be brewing. Will there be a next pandemic? This was also the case in ancient Judah and Israel. They were looking for kings, prophets and the temple to protect them but all these eventually disappointed. Still, a ray of hope could always be seen.

Sept. 14 – *The Restorer* – 2nd Kings 13.14-23

21 – *Kings, Great and Proud* – 2nd Kings 14.8-14; 2nd Chronicles 26.16-21

28 – *The Fallen Tent* – Amos 5.18-27; 9.9-15

SUNDAY CLASSES | 10:10-11:05 AM

Sovereign Grace: A Study of God's Plan, Purpose, and Work of Predestination | Fellowship Hall

The Bible says some startling things about God's overarching sovereignty and His work in the world. It speaks of God's "chosen people" and of how certain events and people have been "predestined." We will look at this topic and ask some of the tough, heartfelt questions and objections that such statements produce. Join Mike McKeon and Nate Dorn upstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

The Gospel-Centered Life | T. J. & Missy Campo | Library

The Gospel-Centered Life is intended to help Christians understand how the gospel shapes every aspect of life and conduct. Colossians 1.6 says that "the gospel is continually bearing fruit and increasing" in and among us even after we first believe it. How does this happen? Why is a continual re-discovery and re-application of the gospel so important? How will our personal growth and mission life be stunted if we don't grasp the gospel deeply? These are the questions that *The Gospel Centered Life* seeks to answer.

Junior & High School Sunday Class | Meegan Dorn & Sky McNeill | Room #4 (2nd floor)

Join us this semester as Senior and Junior High listen to the bold voices of the Old Testament prophets calling for change in the hearts of Israel and Judah. These original "rebels" with a purpose call out corrupt kings and nefarious nations to turn back to God.

Elementary Sunday School (Grades K-5) Fall Session – Rooms #1 & 2 (2nd floor)

This fall, our elementary kids will explore what it means to truly worship God—both in heart and action. We invite all children in grades K-5 to join Elijah McNeill for this meaningful and interactive learning experience.

THIS WEEK AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

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 | 6:30 PM | Men's Bible Study |
| | 7:30-9:00 PM | Women's In-person Bible Study Contact Alexa @ alexa@parkroadpres.org |
| Tuesday | 6:30 PM | PRYouth |
| | 6:30-8:30 PM | Women's Online Bible Study Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635 |
| Wednesday | 6:30 AM | Men's Bible Study on John (via Zoom) Contact Nate Dorn at ndorn1@gmail.com |
| | 11:30 AM | SALT: Movie "Testament" |
| | 6:30—7:25 PM | Contemporary Worship Team Rehearsal |
| | 6:30 PM | Cancer Support Group (Library) |
| | 7:30 PM | Christmas Choir Rehearsal |
| | | |
| Thursday | 9:15-11:00 AM | Women's In-person Bible Study Contact Grace Sked at Grace@parkroadpres.org |
| | 11:15 AM | Women's Prayer Time via Zoom Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635 |
| | 6:30 PM | ESL Classes |

Women's Bible Studies—1 & 2 Kings | Start this Week! | 3 Different Days

If you are interested in joining , please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. Questions? Contact our Women's Ministry Director, Alexa Cannella.

S.A.L.T. Movie: *Testament* | Wed., Sept. 17 | 11:30 AM | Library

Join the S.A.L.T. group as they gather on Wednesday, Sept. 17th to watch the movie, *Testament*, a modern retelling of the Book of Acts, focusing on the beginnings of the early Church. Bring your own snack to enjoy. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form.

Cancer Support Group | Wed., Sept. 17 | 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

UPCOMING at PARK ROAD

S.A.L.T. Pot Luck/Lunch & Learn | Wed., Sept. 24 | 11:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

Join the S.A.L.T. group as they learn with speaker Mary Diaz covering the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Please bring a salad to share. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form if you plan to attend.

Moms Connect | Sat., Sept. 27 | 9:30—11:30 AM | Rec Room

All moms are invited to join Meegan Dorn and Eva Fleming 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.

The Bible Recap | Wed., Oct. 1 | 7:00-8:15 PM | Dottie's home

The Bible Recap is starting the New Testament on October 1st. They will finish discussion of the Old Testament and begin discussing the New Testament, so it's a great time to join them. The study will go from Oct. 1st — Dec. 31st. For the Oct. 1st meeting, please read Luke chapter 1 and John chapter 1, if you get a chance. The group meets at the home of Dottie Wobb, 5716 Polk St., Hollywood. Questions? Call Dottie at 954-649-7930.

Men's Retreat | Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 9-11 | Port of the Islands Resort-Naples

Join us at our Men's Retreat at the beautiful Port of the Islands Resort. We're excited to welcome guest speaker Brian Kelso, pastor of Christ Covenant Church in Southwest Ranches. This retreat is a great opportunity to connect with other men, deepen your faith, and be encouraged through God's Word. No matter your age or stage of life, all are welcome! Sign-up on our website at parkroadpres.org; or the ***Keeping in Touch*** form; or contact Ronaldo Santos at Ronaldo@parkroadpres.org

Orchid:

The orchid is given by Dave & Grace Cohn in celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary today. 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.

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to Buddy Woods and family on the passing of his father, Carl, on Wednesday, September 10. If you would like to send him your condolences, his address is : 6961 SW 11 Street, Pembroke Pines, 33023.

