

December 14, 2025 - Third Sunday in Advent

A Reflection Before the Service

May the Lord make you glad during this remembrance of
The birth of His only Son, Jesus Christ;
That as you joyfully receive Him for your Redeemer,
You may with sure confidence behold Him
When He shall come to be our Judge.

– Christmas “collect” (prayer) from *The Book of Common Prayer* (1928)

Man’s Maker was made, that he, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother’s breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way may be tired on its journey; that the Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten, with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

– Augustin of Hippo (354-430AD)

Baptismal Vows:

- I. Do you acknowledge your child’s need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
- II. Do you claim God’s covenant promises on their behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own?
- III. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your children to God, and promise them, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the doctrines of our holy religion, and you will strive by all the means of God’s appointment, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

TO THE CONGREGATION:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: *The Prophet Isaiah 43.1-3*

*But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel,
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are Mine!
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,
Nor will the flame burn you.
For I am the LORD your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior..."*

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “Beloved in Christ, Rejoice” (all 3 verses) #207
(NOTE: Opening phrase changed on each verse to “Beloved in Christ)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vv. 1, 3 –4) #201

11:15 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” -Wesley, 1739/Mendelssohn, 1840

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 “Behold”

- Furtick, Wickham, Jenkins

Behold the King has come, divinity incarnate
Creator of the world breathing our air

Behold what light has come and the dark cannot contain it
The Savior of the world is finally here

**Oh, come, let us adore Him. Come let us adore Him
For He alone is worthy. Christ the Lord.**

Behold, the Father's love beyond all comprehension
He gave His only Son to die in our place

Go and see that empty tomb, He's not there, for He is risen
Every heart prepare Him room. Jesus Christ, the King of Heaven
(Chorus)

We give You all the glory. We give You all the glory
We give You all the glory. Christ the Lord.
(Repeat)

We praise Your Name forever
We praise Your Name forever
We praise Your Name forever. Christ the Lord.

(Chorus-2x)

Christ the Lord. He is Christ the Lord

The Prayers of God's People (9:00AM) Based on *Psalms* 137 and 1st *Peter* 1.17-19

Reader: Our Father,
By the rivers of Babylon, here we sit down and weep,
When we remember Zion.
Upon the willows in the midst of Babylon
We hang our harps.
For here our captors demand of us songs,
And our tormentors mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

People: How can we sing the LORD'S song in a foreign land?

Reader: Since we address You as Father, the One who impartially judges, we need You to empower us to conduct ourselves in fear during the time of our stay on earth; knowing that we were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from our futile way of life inherited from our forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

(Silent Prayer)

Now as Your family we pray as our Savior gave us 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 Sacrament of Covenant Baptism (11:15AM)

Jonathan David Trujillo and Alexis Marie Nassimos Gutierrez receive the promises of God in Christ on behalf of their daughter, Isabella Sofia Trujillo Nassimos born 05/25/2025. (Vows: see inside front cover)

The Declaration of Faith and Offering:

(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.)

The Advent Reading: *Christ, the King** (Isaiah 9:6—7)

Reader: *“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forever more. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”*

How does Christ carry out the office of a king?

People: Christ carries out the office of a king in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.

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 “What Child is This”

Dix

Rachel Reichenberger, soloist

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.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, 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.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

11:15 “Another in the Fire”

Davenport, Houston

There's a grace when the heart is under fire. Another way when the walls are closing in
And when I look at the space between where I used to be and this reckoning
I know I will never be alone

There was another in the fire standing next to me
There was another in the waters holding back the seas
And should I ever need reminding of how I've been set free
There is a cross that bears the burden where another died for me
There is another in the fire

All my debt left for dead beneath the waters. I'm no longer a slave to my sin anymore
And should I fall in the space between what remains of me and this reckoning
Either way I won't bow to the things of this world
And I know I will never be alone

There is another in the fire standing next to me
There is another in the waters holding back the seas
And should I ever need reminding what power set me free
There is a grave that holds no body and now that power lives in me

There is another in the fire. There is another in the fire.

And I can see the light in the darkness as the darkness bows to Him
I can hear the roar in the heavens as the space between wears thin
I can feel the ground shake beneath us as the prison walls cave in
Nothing stands between us.

There is no other name but the Name that is Jesus .He who was & still is & will be through it all
So come what may in the space between all the things unseen and this reckoning
I know I will never be alone. I know I will never be alone

There'll be another in the fire standing next to me
There'll be another in the waters holding back the seas
And should I ever need reminding how good You've been to me
I'll count the joy come ev'ry battle cause I know that's where You'll be

I'll count the joy come ev'ry battle cause I know that's where You'll be

The Scripture Reading: *The Prophet Daniel, Chapter Three, vv. 13ff*

Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ "Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. ¹⁷ "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ "But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ He commanded certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire.

²¹ Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire. ²² For this reason, because the king's command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. ²³ But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up.

²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, "Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?" They replied to the king, "Certainly, O king." ²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!"

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. ²⁷ The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head

singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ "Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." ³⁰ Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be to God!

The Sermon

- T. J. Campo

In Lonely Exile Here | Mourning and Thriving in Babylon

The Fourth Man

The Closing Hymn

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

#203

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

SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

SERMON SERIES

In Lonely Exile Here | Mourning and Thriving In Babylon
Good News from the Prophets: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

*“O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns **in lonely exile here**, until the Son of God appear”*

Exile is a rich motif in the entire Bible. To be banished or expelled from one's home and sent into a strange place is considered a monumental trial starting with the first humans. The list of major Bible characters who undergo exile is too long to include here. Exile is also a pattern for the Christian Life (1 Peter 2.11). How can our ancestors in the faith inform our modern lives as aliens in the present world and how is this motif so tied to the Advent or arrival of Jesus Christ?

Dec. 14 – **The Fourth Man** *Daniel* 3.14-29

Dec 21 – **The One Shepherd** *Ezekiel* 34; *John* 10.11

De. 24—**The King of Babylon** *Daniel* 4.24-37

SUNDAY CLASSES | 10:10-11:05 AM

Minor Prophets/Major Impact | Led by Dr. John Stevenson | Fellowship Hall

Tucked away at the end of the Old Testament are these voices that thunder with messages that are anything but minor. They give us the heartbeat of God as He calls His people to repentance, justice, mercy, and hope. They speak into times of crisis, idolatry, and decay, yet their words blaze with timeless truth—revealing the God who both judges sin and restores with grace. Their ancient messages still ignite faith, confront complacency, and point forward to the coming of Christ, the ultimate fulfillment of every promise.

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.

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 month, our elementary students will celebrate the Advent season by learning about the coming of Christ through Scripture lessons, meaningful discussion, and hands-on activities.

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
Monday	7:30-9:00 PM	Women's In-person Advent Bible Study Contact Alexa @ alexa@parkroadpres.org
Tuesday	6:30 PM	PRYouth
	6:30-8:30 PM	Women's Online Advent 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
	6:30 PM	Contemporary Worship Team Rehearsal
	6:30 PM	Christmas Gift Exchange
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:15-11:00 AM	Women's In-person Advent Bible Study Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
	11:15 AM	Women's Prayer Time
	6:30 PM	ESL Classes
Friday	6:00-8:30 PM	Men's Christmas Fest

Orchid:

Today's orchid is given by Charles and Jean Kelsey in celebration of their 63rd wedding anniversary on December 15th. If you would like to purchase (\$30) an orchid for 2026 to be placed in the Sanctuary for a special occasion, fill out your request on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form.

New Church Directory

If you are a member, please take a few moments to complete the *Church Directory Information* form at the Kiosk. Drop it in one of the offering boxes in the back of the church by January 4th.

HAPPENINGS at PARK ROAD

Christmas Gift Exchange | Wed. Dec.17 | 6:30pm-8:30pm | Fellowship Hall

Bring the whole family for a festive evening of games, cookie decorating, and a Christmas gift exchange! If you'd like to participate in the exchange, please bring **one new, wrapped gift** (no more than \$10). **Theme:** *"Something practical your family can use this month or in the new year."* Come enjoy the fun as we celebrate the joy of the season together!

Men's Christmas Fest | Fri., Dec. 19 | 6:00 – 8:30pm

A cook-out at the Ervin Manse (3418 Pierce St). Please bring whatever you wish to drink & share with others, and \$10 for food. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** so we can plan well. It's always a holly jolly time!

Women's Bible Study through the Gospel of Luke Begins the Week of January 4

Join us Monday evening in-person, Tuesday evening online, or Thursday morning in-person for women's Bible study. All 3 Bible studies will be taking 12-weeks to go through the Gospel of Luke. Childcare is provided for both in-person studies. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. Please pick up a study book & complete week 1 before the first meeting (the week of January 4th). Study books will be in mid week. Suggested donation \$10.

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

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

Women's Baby Shower for Anna Iszler & Kerri St Vil | Sat., Jan. 10 | 10:00 AM

All women are invited to help us shower mama's-to-be Anna & Kerri on January 10th from 10am-12pm. Bring a box of diapers to enter the diaper raffle. If you would like to bring a gift, a Target or Amazon gift card would be a blessing. RSVP on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form.

Annual Camping Trip | Feb. 19-22, 2026 | Fisheating Creek –Palmdale, FL

Save the date! All are welcome to join us! If you would like more information, please contact Mike Carpenter at 954-325-5468.

