

December 21, 2025 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

A Reflection Before the Service

What I've found about (mentoring) is that there are some folks you can talk to until you're blue in the face—they're never going to get it and they're never going to change. But every once in a while, you'll run into someone who is eager to listen, eager to learn, and willing to try new things. Those are the people we need to reach. We have a responsibility as parents, older people, teachers, people in the neighborhood to recognize that.

- Tyler Perry, *Don't Make a Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings: Madea's Uninhibited Commentaries on Love and Life* (2007; introduction)

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd the flock of God among you**, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. **And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**

— The Apostle Peter, *First Epistle* (CH 5, vv.1-4)

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: *Psalm 80. vv. 1-7*

*Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel,
You who lead Joseph like a flock;
You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your power
And come to save us!
O God, restore us
And cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved.*

*O LORD God of hosts,
How long will You be angry with the prayer of Your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears,
And You have made them to drink tears in large measure.
You make us an object of contention to our neighbors,
And our enemies laugh among themselves.
O God of hosts, restore us
And cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved.*

(Prayer)

The Introit

(9:00) “All My Heart This Night Rejoices”

-Gerhardt / Winkworth

All my heart this night rejoices
As I hear far and near sweetest angel voices
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing
Till the air ev’rywhere now with joy is ringing.

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (all 3 verses) #214

“Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor (all 3 verses) #230

11:15 “Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)” -Watts, 1719

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found,

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

11:15 “Do You Hear What I Hear”

-Regney, Shayne, Barnes

Said the night wind to the little lamb, “Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb, do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night with a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite.”

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, “Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song high above the trees with a voice as big as the sea,
With a voice as big as the sea.”

Said the shepherd boy to the holy Child, “Do you feel what I feel?
Stirring in my heart, holy Child, do you feel what I feel?
A hope, a hope deeper than I’ve known that a Savior Christ has been born,
That a Savior Christ has been born.”

Said the holy Child to all the world, “Listen to what I say!”
For I’ve come to save all the world! “Listen to what I say!”
New life, new life in my death is found let the joyful news now resound
Let the joyful news now resound.

The Prayers of God's People in Reply to *Matthew* 5.1-4, 9.35-36

And when Jesus saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And opening His mouth He began to teach them, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted..."

Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

Our Father, we bow to You and we joyfully live in Your counterintuitive kingdom where inner poverty is an asset and weeping is the path to joy: **(Silence)**

Lord Jesus Christ, as You taught the crowds in ancient times, we ask that You now teach **us**; show us the wealth of our inner need and the comfort of sorrow; be our Good Shepherd: **(Silence)**

Holy Spirit, we pray for family, neighbors, friends and enemies who need the forgiveness, relief, healing and hope that can only be found under the reign of God: **(Silence)**

Now we pray together as our Good Shepherd 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 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, in the State of Humiliation** (Luke 2.7; Isaiah 53.3)

Reader: *“And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”*

“He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”

In what did Christ’s humiliation consist?

People: Christ’s humiliation consisted in His being born in a low condition made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried and continuing under the power of death for a time.

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 “Shepherd’s Song”

- Berry, Ijames

Little lambs upon a hill, ‘neath a starry sky,
lift your heads and hear the sound:
music from on high!
Shepherds, listen to the news the angel songs proclaim.
In the hay your Maker sleeps. Lamb of God His name.

Shepherds, go and spread the word, telling far and near;
sing aloud the song of hope all the world must hear:
“One Who seeks you as His sheep left His home in love;
now He lies in manger bed, Shepherd from above.”

Wayward lambs who wander far, lost without the light,
turn and hear the joyful song echoing tonight;
tidings of a Savior born, the Shepherd long foretold.
He has come to bring you home, safe into His fold.

11:15 “Light of the World”

-Daigle, Duncan, Mabury

The world waits for a miracle
The heart longs for a little bit of hope
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel
A child prays for peace on earth
And she's calling out from a sea of hurt
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel
And can you hear the angels singing

Glory to the Light of the world
Glory, the Light of the world is here

The drought breaks with the tears of a mother
A baby's cry is the sound of love
Come down, come down, Emmanuel
He is the song for the suffering
He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace has come
He has come, Emmanuel

Glory to the Light of the world
For all who wait, for all who hunger
For all who've prayed, for all who wonder
Behold your King, behold Messiah
Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Glory to the Light of the world
Glory to the Light of the world

The world waits for the miracle
The heart longs for a little bit of hope
Oh come, oh come Emmanuel

The Scripture Reading: *The Prophet Ezekiel*, 34.1-2, 7-12, 23-24, 29-31; John 10.11

Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,² "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, "Thus says the Lord GOD, "Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock has become a prey, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock, but rather the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock; ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ "Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand My sheep from them and make them cease from feeding sheep. So the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore, but I will deliver My flock from their mouth, so that they will not be food for them.""

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. ¹² "As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day.

²³ "Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. ²⁴ "And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

²⁹ "I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore. ³⁰ "Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people," declares the Lord GOD. ³¹ "As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are men, and I am your God," declares the Lord GOD.

John 10.11 *"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

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 One Shepherd

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “All My Heart This Night Rejoices” (vv. 1-4)

#217

11:15 “Once in Royal David’s City/Bless the Lord O My Soul”

- Alexander

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable and His cradle was a stall
With the poor, and mean, and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy Name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I’ll worship Your holy Name. I’ll worship Your holy Name

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav’n above
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy Name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I’ll worship Your holy Name. I’ll worship Your holy Name

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 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	9:15-11:00 AM	Women's In-person Advent Bible Study Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
	6:30-8:30 PM	Women's Online Advent Bible Study Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
Wednesday	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Thursday		OFFICE CLOSED
Friday		OFFICE CLOSED

Orchid:

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.

Men's Bible Studies

The Monday evening and Wednesday morning men's Bible studies will be taking a break for Christmas. They will resume the week of January 5th.

PRYouth

The Youth group will be taking a break on Tuesdays during Christmas and will resume on Tues., Jan. 6th. However, to kick off the New Year, **they will meet on Thurs. Jan. 1st** from 3-5 p.m. for a pool party at Lance & Sky McNeill's home. They live at 2601 SW 84th Terrace, Davie 33328.

ESL Classes

ESL will take a break from classes on Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st. Classes will resume on Jan. 8th.

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

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

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 Jan. 4th.

HAPPENINGS at PARK ROAD

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 Lesson 1 before the first meeting (the week of January 4th). Study books will be in mid-week. Suggested donation \$10.

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.

SALT Pot Luck Luncheon with Guitarist Timothy LaRogue | Wed., Jan. 14 | 11:30 AM

Bring your favorite side dish and a donation of \$10 to enjoy an hour with Timothy LaRogue on the guitar playing our favorite folk/soft rock songs of the 60's and 70's. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form.

Women's Ministry Pajama, Pizza, & Prayer Board Night | Fri., Jan. 16th | 6-8 PM

The new year brings a great opportunity to set new spiritual goals and pray bold prayers. Join us for a fun night of having pizza & participating in an inspiring craft. We will be creating personal prayer boards where we will get to thoughtfully spend time thinking through some spiritual goals & prayer requests we have for 2026. All craft materials will be provided by the Church! Bring your Bible & wear your coziest pajamas! Sign up on ***Keeping in Touch*** form or online.

Lifeline Screening | Tues., Jan. 20 | Fellowship Hall

Life Line Screening offers a 4-screening package (Carotid Artery, Peripheral Artery, Atrial Fibrillation, & Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm) at a special price of \$129. To book your appointment or get more info, visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://www.llsa.org/social/habc)

Annual Church Picnic | Sat., January 24th | T.Y. Park | 11:00 am—3:00 pm

The annual church picnic will be Saturday, January 24th at Pavilion #12 at T.Y. Park, located at 3300 N. Park Road, Hollywood 33021. Everyone is welcome and invited to join for a time of fellowship and fun! Sign up begins soon!

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.

