

December 7, 2025 - Second Sunday in Advent

A Reflection Before the Service

Every Who down in Whoville
Liked Christmas a lot...
But the Grinch,
Who lived just north of Whoville, Did NOT!

The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season!
Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason.
It could be his head wasn't screwed on just right.
It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight.
But I think that the most likely reason of all,
May have been that his heart was two sizes too small.

Theodor Geisel ("Dr. Seuss");
How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1957)

Will our destiny as a nation which calls itself Christian be satisfied in terms of the economic prosperity and the national might which we have created? Will we seek no higher salvation than the present order can provide in terms of increased income, automobiles, and television sets? What is worse, will we, because we have churches and because our political forms are hospitable to their growth, assume that the present order is the God-ordained order which God – if He be just – may be called upon to defend always? The people that answer the question so, will see it as the sole function of religion to support and to hallow in the name of God its own material best interests. But it will never begin to understand the meaning of the Kingdom of God.

*John Bright; **The Kingdom of God*** (1953)

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: *Zephaniah* 3.15-17 (NAU)

*The LORD has taken away His judgments against you,
He has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
You will fear disaster no more.
In that day it will be said to Jerusalem:
"Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp.
The LORD your God is in your midst,
A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy,
He will be quiet in His love,
He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy."*

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “Joy to the World” (vv. 1, 3-4) #195

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (vv. 1, 3, 4-5) #218

11:15 “O Come All Ye Faithful” Wade

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

11:15 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Sears

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all gracious King";
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the time foretold;
when the new heaven and earth shall own the Prince of Peace their King
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing!

The Prayers of God's People

My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; the rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. (Psalm 62.5-8)

Our Father, thank You for always beckoning us to withdraw to a quiet place and wait for You; help us to take seriously Your daily invitation: (Silence)

Lord Jesus Christ, You are our rock, our salvation and our stronghold; inwardly convince us to trust You at all times and not to seek refuge outside of Your finished work: (Silence)

Holy Spirit, we now pour out our hearts before You; we pray for our needs and the needs of those who need refuge: (Silence)

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 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 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 “Gesù Bambino”

Yon

Megan McKeon, flute

When blossoms flower amid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas rose, the King of love and light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

**O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas rose, its King of love and light
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His Name, the grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.

(Chorus)

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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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

The Scripture Reading: *The Prophet Daniel, Chapter Two, vv. 1-5; 24-35; 44* (NIV)

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. ² So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, ³ he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means." ⁴ Then the astrologers answered the king, "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it." ⁵ The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.

²⁴ Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

²⁵ Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means." ²⁶ The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?" ²⁷ Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these: ²⁹ "As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. ³⁰ As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

³¹ "Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ³² The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. ³⁴ While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the

summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

⁴⁴ "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks Be to God!**

The Sermon

-Brad Schmidt

In Lonely Exile Here | Mourning and Thriving in Babylon
The Really Big Dream

The Hymn of Preparation

9:00 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (vv. 1-2)

#193

11:15 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (vv. 1-2)

Moultrie

- 1.** Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

- 2.** King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

- 3.** Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

- 4.** At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with the ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Park Road Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel, to receive Holy Communion with us. If you are not able to receive Communion, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers. (Gluten-Free bread is on the middle of the table.)

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Bread

The Wine

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (vv. 3-4) #193

11:15 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (vv. 3-4) Moultrie

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 – **A Thrill of Hope**

Jeremiah 31.10-17, 31-34

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	6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study
	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
	7:30 PM	Christmas 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	7:00-8:30 PM	Christmas Concert
Saturday	7:00-Noon	Work Day
	12:00-2:00 PM	S.A.L.T. Christmas Luncheon @ Tropical Acres

Invite Card for Upcoming Events

Stop by the Kiosk in the Narthex to get a few postcards to invite family and friends to November and December events at Park Road!

Orchid:

Today's orchid is given by Dave Cohn in celebration of his wife, Grace's ,birthday on Dec. 14th. 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.

HAPPENINGS at PARK ROAD

Christmas Concert | Fri., Dec. 12 | 7:00 pm

Please join us for a time of joyous worship and reflection on Fri., Dec. 12 at 7:00 pm. This is an excellent way to transition our busy lives and hearts into the real meaning of the Advent Season.

Christmas Concert Reception-Cookies & Brownies Needed

We will be serving cookies and brownies after the Christmas Concert on Friday, December 12th. It would be a huge help if you could drop off your cookies/brownies before the start of the Christmas Concert at 7:00pm. Please bake at least 1 dozen cookies or brownies.

If you bring your dessert on something you would like returned, please be sure your name is on it. You can pick it up after the concert or Sunday morning in the library on the counter.

In addition, we will be having a friendly cookie contest for those who would like to participate. If you want to be part of the contest, make sure your name & type of cookie is labeled on your dish.

Please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form if you plan to bring cookies or brownies for the reception.

Church Work Day | Sat., Dec. 13 | 7:00 AM — 12:00 PM

We are spending the morning beautifying our campus by doing landscaping projects. Come out for all or just part of the morning to lend a hand.

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!

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

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

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.

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.

Merry Christmas



Finish the story with the words at the right.

M _____ and J _____ traveled to

B _____.

M _____ had a baby and named him

J _____. He was God's Son.

She placed J _____ in a m _____,

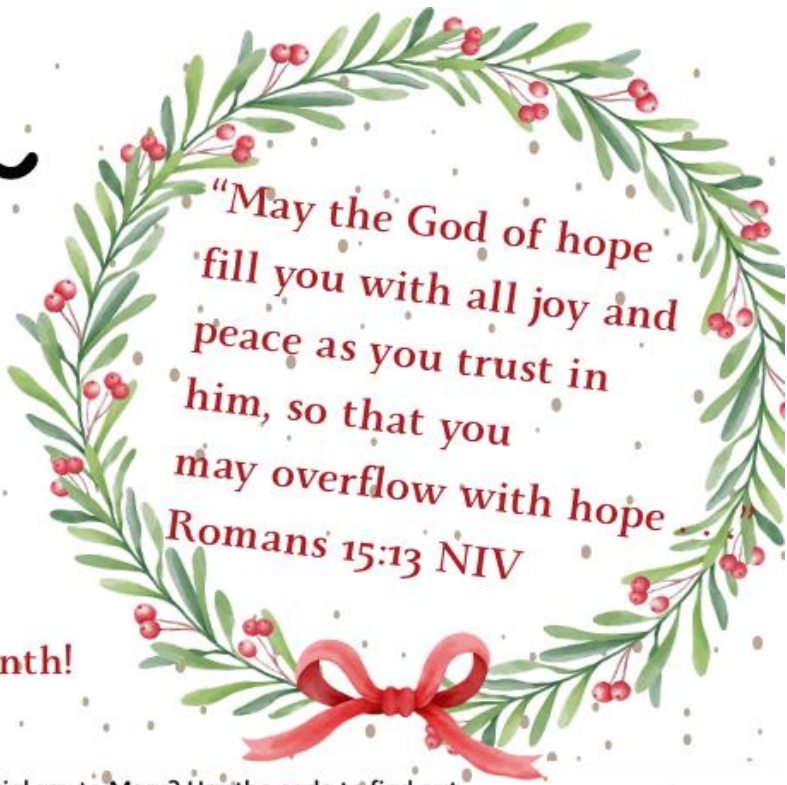
which was a place for animals to eat.

He was wrapped in s _____

clothes, which were strips of cloth.



Kids...
find yo



"May the God of hope
 fill you with all joy and
 peace as you trust in
 him, so that you
 may overflow with hope
 Romans 15:13 NIV

Look in your box to
 our task for this month!

What did Gabriel say to Mary? Use the code to find out.



Luke 1:31

