

August 9, 2026

A Reflection Before the Service

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "*Thy* will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek, find. To those who knock, it is opened.

– C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, Chapter 9 (1946)

"It means," said Aslan, "that though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, into the stillness and the darkness before Time dawned, she would have read there a different incantation. She would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backward."

– C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (1950; Ch. 15)

Q: What are the decrees of God? A: The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Q: How does God execute his decrees? A: God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Q: What are the works of providence? A: God's works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

– *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Questions 7, 8 and 11 (1647)

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: Psalm 126 (A Song of Ascents)

*When the LORD brought back the captive ones of Zion,
We were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter
And our tongue with joyful shouting;
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us;
We are glad.
Restore our captivity, O LORD,
As the streams in the South.
Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting.
He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed,
Shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.*

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “O Father, You Are Sovereign” (all 4 verses)

#75

“Though Troubles Assail Us” (vv. 1, 3-4)

#95

11:15 “Is He Worthy?”

- Peterson, Shive, arr. Sorenson

LEADER: Do you feel the world is broken? **PEOPLE: We do.**

LEADER: Do you feel the shadows deepen? **PEOPLE: We do.**

LEADER: But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through?

PEOPLE: We do.

LEADER: Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **PEOPLE: We do.**

LEADER: Is all creation groaning? **PEOPLE: It is.**

LEADER: Is a new creation coming? **PEOPLE: It is.**

LEADER: Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? **PEOPLE: It is.**

LEADER: Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **PEOPLE: It is.**

ALL: 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.

Is He worthy, is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy of this? He is.

LEADER: Does the Father truly love us? **PEOPLE: He does.**

LEADER: Does the Spirit move among us? **PEOPLE: He does.**

LEADER: And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? **PEOPLE: He does.**

LEADER: Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **PEOPLE: He does.**

ALL: 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.

(continued on next page)

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!
From ev'ry 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!

LEADER: Is He worthy? Is He worthy? **ALL: He is!**

LEADER: Is He worthy? Is He worthy? **ALL: He is! He is!**

11:15 “Lead Me to the Cross”

Ligertwood

Savior I come, quiet my soul, remember
Redemption's hill, where Your blood was spilled, for my ransom.
Everything I once held dear I count it all as loss

Lead me to the Cross where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees, Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself, I belong to You
Oh lead me. Lead me to the Cross.

You were as I tempted and tried, human
The Word became flesh, bore my sin in death, now You're risen.
Everything I once held dear I count it all as loss

Lead me to the Cross where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees, Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself, I belong to You
Oh lead me. Lead me to Your heart.
To Your heart.

Lead me to Your heart
Lead me to Your heart

Lead me to the Cross where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees, Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself, I belong to You
Oh lead me. Lead me to Your cross.

Confessing Our Sins Together:

Reader: Almighty God, rich in mercy to all who call upon You; hear us as we come humbly confessing our sins and imploring Your mercy and assurance of forgiveness.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Reader: We confess our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; and all our failures and shortcomings toward You and toward our neighbor.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Our Father, turn to us and be gracious; of Your great mercy grant that we may serve and please You in the newness of life; through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon and New Grace In Christ: 1 Peter 5.6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Request:

We cast all our anxieties on You, the burdens we cannot carry, knowing that Your hand is mighty and that You care for us; Lord, grant us relief: **(Silence)**

We thank You for our students and teachers; as they return to school we ask for lasting fruit in their lives and a year of joyous service with You: **(Silence)**

We pray for people You have brought into our lives, people with needs great and small; Father, glorify Yourself in showing them mercy and help: **(Silence)**

We ask that Your hand of grace and guidance abide on Ethan and Amanda Brown in their marriage and parenting and as they bring the Good News to students at the University of Illinois: **(Silence)**

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

The Apostles’ Creed:*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell;

the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the quick * and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,

the holy catholic church, **

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. 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.

*Although not written by the apostles, the *Apostles’ Creed* is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century. *i.e. “living” *** ‘Catholic’ means international unlike the Old Testament Church which was a single nation.

9:00 “Classical Praise /As the Deer” (based on Psalm 42)

Beethoven/Harlan

As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee

As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee

You alone are my Strength, my Shield, to You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

You're my Friend and You are my Brother even though You are a King
I love You more than any other, so much more than anything

You alone are my Strength, my Shield, to You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee,
And I long to worship Thee

11:15 “Come to Jesus”

Smith

Oh, my baby, when you're older
Maybe then you'll understand
You have angels to dance around your shoulders
'Cause at times in life you need a helping hand

Oh, my baby, when you're prayin'
Leave your burden by my door
You have Jesus standing at your bedside
To keep you calm, keep you safe, away from harm

**Worry not my daughters, worry not my sons
Child, when life don't seem worth livin'
Come to Jesus and let Him hold you in His arms**

Oh, my baby, when you're cryin'
Never hide your face from me
'cause I have conquered hell and driven out the demons
I have come with a light to set you free

(Chorus)

Oh, my baby, when you're dying
Believe the healing of His hand
Here in heaven we will wait for your arrival
Here in Heaven you will finally understand
Here in Heaven we will wait for your arrival
Here in Heaven you will finally understand

(Chorus)

The Scripture Reading: Ezra 6.1-15

Then King Darius issued a decree, and search was made in the archives, where the treasures were stored in Babylon. ² In Ecbatana in the fortress, which is in the province of Media, a scroll was found and there was written in it as follows: "Memorandum-- ³ "In the first year of King Cyrus, Cyrus the king issued a decree: 'Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the temple, the place where sacrifices are offered, be rebuilt and let its foundations be retained, its height being 60 cubits and its width 60 cubits; ⁴ with three layers of huge stones and one layer of timbers. And let the cost be paid from the royal treasury. ⁵ 'Also let the gold and silver utensils of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be returned and brought to their places in the temple in Jerusalem; and you shall put them in the house of God.'

⁶ "Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the province beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai and your colleagues, the officials of the provinces beyond the River, keep away from there. ⁷ "Leave this work on the house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site. ⁸ "Moreover, I issue a decree concerning what you are to do for these elders of Judah in the rebuilding of this house of God: the full cost is to be paid to these people from the royal treasury out of the taxes of the provinces beyond the River, and that without delay. ⁹ "Whatever is needed, both young bulls, rams, and lambs for a burnt offering to the God of heaven, and wheat, salt, wine and anointing oil, as the priests in Jerusalem request, it is to be given to them daily without fail, ¹⁰ that they may offer acceptable sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons. ¹¹ "And I issued a decree that any man who violates this edict, a timber shall be drawn from his house and he shall be impaled on it and his house shall be made a refuse heap on account of this. ¹² "May the God who has caused His name to dwell there overthrow any king or people who attempts to change it, so as to destroy this house of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have issued this decree, let it be carried out with all diligence!"

¹³ Then Tattenai, the governor of the province beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai and their colleagues carried out the decree with all diligence, just as King Darius had sent. ¹⁴ And the elders of the Jews were successful in building through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they finished building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decree of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. ¹⁵ This temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be to God!

AfterExile | *The Beautiful Letdown*
The Decree

Cast of Characters:

- 1) Darius (king of Persia who carried out Cyrus' decree)
- 2) Cyrus (king of Persia; wrote the decree to set the Jewish captives free to return to Jerusalem)
- 3) Nebuchadnezzar King (king of Babylon)
- 4) Artaxerxes (a king of Persia after Darius)

- 5) Tattenai (Persian governor who reported to Darius)
- 6) Shethar-bozeai (Persian governor who reported to Darius)

- 7) Haggai (Jewish prophet who wrote the third-to-the- last book of the Hebrew Bible)
- 8) Zechariah (Jewish prophet who wrote the penultimate book of the Hebrew Bible)

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “God Moves in a Mysterious Way” (all 6 verses)

#128

11:15 “O Love that Will Not Let Me Go”

Matheson; Sears

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS TODAY

After Exile: this sort of neglected period of Biblical history records a sort of reunion of the Israelite Tribes and the sort of restoration of former greatness they sort of enjoyed and sort of endured. The Antidimactic Restoration. We can all relate as we have all had moments when we asked, “Is **THIS** it?” And yet, if we embrace the Kingdom of God, these “redemptive disappointments” increase our joyful anticipation of the Full Restoration of all things!

Aug 9 - The Decree — Ezra 6

Aug 16 - Disappointment and Destiny - Haggai 1.12 - 2.9

Aug 23 - Got Juice? - Zechariah 4

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

The Gospel-Centered Life | T. J. & Missy Campo | Starts Aug. 9 | 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. Discussion topics include: *Pretending & Performing, Believing the Gospel, Law & Gospel, Repentance, Heart-Idolatry, Conflict and Forgiveness.*

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth | John Stevenson | Fellowship Hall

How can I read the Bible and understand it for myself? What about those difficult passages? Together we’ll learn practical tools for interpreting Scripture in its historical and literary context, discover how different genres should be read, avoid common mistakes in interpretation, and see how every passage points us to Christ.

Youth Sunday Class Coming Soon

The Youth Sunday Class will begin later this month. Until then, Youth are encouraged to attend one of the other classes being offered.

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

Join Eliyah McNeill as she teaches through the book of Genesis this month.

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
	10:10 AM	Sunday Class (Fellowship Hall)
Monday	8:00-5:30	Lifeline Screening
	6:30-8:00 PM	Men's In-person Bible Study (Narthex)
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Park Road Youth
Wednesday	6:30-7:30 AM	Men's Online Bible Study Contact Nate Dorn at ndorn1@gmail.com
	7:00 PM	The Bible Recap-OT (Dottie's Home)
Thursday	10:00 AM	Women's Prayer Time via Zoom Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
	6:30 PM	ESL Citizenship Classes
	7:00 PM	Young Adults Bible Study (Dehmer's home)

Lifeline Screening | Mon., Aug. 10 | Fellowship Hall

Lifeline 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)

The Bible OT Recap | Wed., Aug. 12 | 7:00-8:15 PM | Dottie's home

Contact Dottie Wobb at 954-649-7930 for info on this women's in-person Bible study meeting once a month at her home located at 5716 A Polk Street, Hollywood, 33021.

Young Adults Bible Study | Thurs., Aug. 13 | 7:00-8:30 PM

Young Adults looking for community and direction, join us for Bible study. The study is led by Joseph Dehmer and it meets at his home located at 11960 Brim Way, Cooper City, 33026. Any questions contact Joseph at 954-558-5047.

Moms Connect | Sat., Aug. 22 | 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.

LOOKING AHEAD at PARK ROAD

Church Work Day | Sat., Aug. 29 | 8:00 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.

Women Connect: Fall Kickoff Brunch | Sat., Aug. 29 | 11:00 AM—1:00 PM

You're invited to Women Connect: Fall Kickoff Brunch on Saturday, August 29th to learn of the plans for the remainder of 2026. Come meet Nancy Adams, Women's Ministry Director, and her vision for the ministry. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. Childcare will be provided. *"Behold, I will set your stones in antimony, & your foundations I will lay with sapphires. Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies, and your gates of crystal, and your entire wall of precious stones."* -Isa. 54:11-12

Women Connect: Bible Study Begins the Week of September 13th

Join us Monday evening in-person at 7:30 PM, or Tuesday evening online at 7:00 PM, or Thursday morning in-person at 9:15 AM for women's Bible study. All 3 studies will be taking 10-weeks to look at Jen Wilkin's *Joshua* study. Childcare is provided for both in-person studies. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form if you would like to be a part of the study. Study books will be available the beginning of September. Suggested donation is \$20.

Sing With the Christmas Concert Choir!

Love Christmas music? Come sing with us! You don't need a solo voice & there are absolutely no auditions.

The Details

- Rehearsals: Wednesdays starting Sept 2nd, 7:30–8:15 PM
- Concert Date: Friday, Dec 5th at 7:00 PM

Perks: We'll be backed by a live string quartet, & you get audio tracks to help you practice!

Why do it?

In addition to the spiritual benefits, group singing lowers stress, boosts your mood, & is great for your brain.

Ready to join?

Sign up using the ***Keeping In Touch*** form in your Sunday bulletin. Call or text Dwight at (305) 318-3418.

The love and concern of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Joanna Deangelo who passed away on August 5th. The family is planning a memorial service for early November.

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.

