

September 13, 2026

A Reflection Before the Service

Oh, where did you go, my blue-eyed son?
And what did you see, my darling young one?
I saw a newborn baby with wild wolves all around it
I saw a highway of diamonds with nobody on it
I saw a black branch with blood that kept drippin'
I saw a room full of men with their hammers a-bleedin'
I saw a white ladder all covered with water
I saw ten thousand talkers whose tongues were all broken
I saw guns and sharp swords in the hands of young children
And it's a hard, it's a hard, it's a hard, and it's a hard
It's a hard rain's a-gonna fall.

Bob Dylan, “A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall” (Track six
on the 1963 album, *The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan*)

...but to be perfectly honest, everybody has a religion.... Philosophically, everybody has something that they're completely 10 fingers 10 toes devoted to. That is the guiding principle in your life, something that you give all of yourself to. Human beings are hardwired to be completely devoted to something so that's how I'm using the word religion, just to animate that idea. It doesn't have to be (organized) religion for you but you have something in your life that is a god and principle for you that you're completely devoted to. That's what (your god) is.

– **Mos Def** (Yasiin Bey, American rapper and actor) on
Real Time with Bill Maher with guests Salman Rushdie
and Christopher Hitchens (March 27, 2009).

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: Psalm 86.3-12

*For to You I cry all day long.
Make glad the soul of Your servant,
For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,
And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
And give heed to the voice of my supplications!
In the day of my trouble I shall call upon You,
For You will answer me.
There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord,
Nor are there any works like Yours.
All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before
You, O Lord, And they shall glorify Your name.
For You are great and do wondrous deeds;
You alone are God.
Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth;
Unite my heart to fear Your Name.
I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
And will glorify Your Name forever.*

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “Holy, Holy, Holy!” (all 4 verses)

#100

“Come Ye Sinners” (all 5 verses)

#472

11:15 “Chainbreaker”

Smith, Fieldes, Williams

If you've been walking the same old road for miles and miles,
if you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies,
if you're trying to fill the same old holes inside,
there's a better life. there's a better life.

If you've got pain, He's a pain taker.
If you feel lost, He's a way maker.
If you need freedom or saving,
He's a prison-shaking Savior.
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker.

We've all searched for the light of day in the dead of night.
We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight.
We've all run to things we know just ain't right
when there's a better life, there's a better life.

(Chorus)

If you believe it,
if you receive it,
if you can feel it,
somebody testify.

(Repeat)

(Chorus)

11:15 “House of the Lord”

Smith, Wickham

We worship the God who was, we worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors. He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory

**There’s joy in the house of the Lord. There’s joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won’t be quiet, we shout out Your praise
There’s joy in the house of the Lord, our God is surely in this place
And we won’t be quiet, we shout out Your praise**

Oh, oh, oh. We shout out Your praise

We sing to the God who heals, we sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross. Then He rose up from that grave
My God’s still rolling stones away

(Chorus)

(‘Cause) We were the beggars, now we’re royalty
We were the prisoners, now we’re running free
We are forgiven, accepted, redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise

(Repeat)

(Chorus)

The Confession of Sin: Responding in Prayer to Ezra Ch. 9

Reader: *O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to You, my God, for our iniquities have risen above our heads and our guilt has grown even to the heavens.*

(Silent Reflection: In what areas of my life have my failures and loss of self-control become a source of shame?)

Reader: *Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been in great guilt, and on account of our iniquities we, our kings and our priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity and to plunder and to open shame, as it is this day.*

(Silent Reflection: What have been some negative consequences of my attitudes and actions or areas where God has gotten my attention?)

Grace and Assurance of Pardon for All Who Trust in Jesus Christ:

... grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage. For we are slaves; yet in our bondage our God has not forsaken us, but has extended lovingkindness to us... (Ezra 9.8-9)

Prayers of Gratitude and Request:

Our Father, we praise and thank You for extending to us grace upon grace, for not forsaking us and giving us a firm place in Your house: **(Silent Prayer)**

Lord Jesus Christ, You embody God's lovingkindness to us; continue to renew our minds and enlighten our eyes; revive us to take our place in Your mission: **(Silent Prayer)**

Holy Spirit of God, sanctify us and make us holy that we might help our unbelieving friends; we pray for them now: **(Silent Prayer)**

We pray for our beloved Jennifer Carpenter and her work in Ireland; Lord bless her in every way, every day making her fit to serve You and flourishing in every way: **(Silent Prayer)**

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 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 Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be

World without end. Amen, 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 “It is Well with My Soul”

Spafford/arr. Hayes

Piano Meditation

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

**It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **(Refrain)**

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul. **(Refrain)**

You did not suffer for nothing
When You shed Your blood
Every drop was on purpose
What amazing love

**I will make my boast in Your cross alone
Laying every crown at Your feet
Lamb of God
Worthy is the Lamb of God
Worthy is the Lamb of God
Worthy is the Lamb**

And as You knelt in the garden
Was I on Your mind
What was the joy set before You
Was my heart Your prize

May the Lamb receive His reward in me
May the Lamb receive all the glory
(Chorus)

The Scripture Reading: Ezra Ch. 10. 9-17

So all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month on the twentieth of the month, and all the people sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and the heavy rain. ¹⁰Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have been unfaithful and have married foreign wives adding to the guilt of Israel. ¹¹"Now therefore, make confession to the LORD God of your fathers and do His will; and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives" ¹²Then all the assembly replied with a loud voice, "That's right! As you have said, so it is our duty to do. ¹³"But there are many people; it is the rainy season and we are not able to stand in the open. Nor can the task be done in one or two days, for we have transgressed greatly in this matter. ¹⁴"Let our leaders represent the whole assembly and let all those in our cities who have married foreign wives come at appointed times, together with the elders and judges of each city, until the fierce anger of our God on account of this matter is turned away from us." ¹⁵Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah opposed this, with Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supporting them

¹⁶But the exiles did so. And Ezra the priest selected men who were heads of fathers' households for each of their father's households, all of them by name. So they convened on the first day of the tenth month to investigate the matter. ¹⁷They finished investigating all the men who had married foreign wives by the first day of the first month.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be to God!

AfterExile | *The Beautiful Letdown*

A Hard Rain

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “Jesus Lover of My Soul (vv. 1,3-4)

#508

11:15 “Hosanna!”

-Ligertwood

I see the King of glory coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes

I see His love and mercy washing over all our sin
The people sing, the people sing

**Hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, hosanna
Hosanna in the highest**

I see a generation rising up to take their place
With selfless faith, with selfless faith

I see a near revival stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees, we're on our knees
(Chorus)

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like You have loved me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity
(Chorus x2)

Hosanna in the highest (x2)

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

SERMON SERIES

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 Anticlimactic 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!

Sept. 13—*A Hard Rain*—Ezra 10:9-17

Sept. 20—*A Time Like This (Meanwhile, Back in Persia)*—Esther

SUNDAY CLASSES | 10:10-11:05 AM

The Gospel-Centered Life | T. J. 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. 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.

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	6:30-8:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Contact David King at ironaeus@aol.com
	7:30-9:00 PM	Women's In-person Bible Study (Rec Room) Contact Kristen at kescobar97@gmail.com
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Park Road Youth
	6:30 PM	Session Meeting
	7:00-9:00 PM	Women's Online Bible Study Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
Wednesday	6:30-7:30 AM	Men's Online Bible Study Contact Nate Dorn at ndorn1@gmail.com
	7:30-8:30 PM	Christmas Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:00-11:00 AM	Women's In-person Bible Study Contact Grace at Grace@parkroadpres.org
	11:15 AM	Women's Prayer Time via Zoom Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
	6:30-8:30 PM	ESL Classes Begin

Women Connect: Bible Study Begins This Week

All 3 women's Bible studies will be taking 10-weeks to look at Jen Wilkin's *Joshua* study. Childcare is provided for in-person studies.

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes begin this Thursday from 6:30-8:30 PM. Registration is open every Thursday evening.

LOOKING AHEAD AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

Moms Connect | Sat., September 26 | 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.

SALT (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) Lunch Bunch | 1:00 pm

Once a month on Sunday after the 11:15 AM service, the SALT group goes out to lunch! Join them on September 27th at DiSalvos Pizza & Italian Restaurant located at 4190 N 46th Ave., Hollywood, 33021.

Women Connect: Sourdough Bread-Making Demonstration | Fri., Oct. 2 | 4-6 PM

We behold Jehovah Jireh, whose greatest provision is not merely what He gives us daily, but God has given us Christ Himself—the Bread of Life who satisfies our deepest need.

Join us for a special afternoon of fellowship and learning as we explore the art of making sourdough bread!

This will be **primarily a demonstration**, with some hands-on opportunities, where you'll watch the sourdough-making process, learn helpful techniques and tips, and have an opportunity to ask questions along the way. **RSVP is required by Sept. 25th.** Because supplies must be purchased in advance, **September 25 is a firm RSVP deadline.** We will not be able to accept additional registrations after this date. Sign-up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. We hope you'll join us for a fun and informative Women Connect gathering!

Save the Date: Men's Retreat Scheduled for Thurs., Oct. 8—Sat., Oct. 10 in Naples, FL

Orchid: Today's orchid is given by Dave & Grace Cohm in celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary. 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.

