

September 20, 2026

A Reflection Before the Service

That was a memorable day to me, for it made great changes in me. But, it is the same with any life. Imagine one selected day struck out of it, and think how different its course would have been. Pause you who read this, and think for a moment of the long chain of iron or gold, of thorns or flowers, that would never have bound you, but for the formation of the first link on one memorable day.

– Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (1861; Chapter 9)

Every occupation has its own honor before God. Ordinary work is a divine vocation or calling. In our daily work no matter how important or mundane we serve God by serving the neighbor and we also participate in God's on-going providence for the human race.

God is milking the cows through the vocation of the milkmaid.

– Martin Luther, *Table Talks* (1566)

... there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that *the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too*. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way. I learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets:

Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it.

Boldness has genius, power and magic in it!

– W. H. Murray, *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition* (1951)

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: Psalm 46.7-11 (NIV)

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations He has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (all 4 verses) #92

“Our God, Our Help In Ages Past” (vv. 1-3, 7) #30

11:15 “Come Alive (Dry Bones)”

-Daigle, Farren

Through the eyes of man, it seems there's so much we have lost
as we look down the road where all the prodigals have walked;
and one by one the enemy has whispered lies and led them off as slaves

But we know that You are God, Yours is the victory.
We know there is more to come that we may not yet see.
So with the faith You've given us we step into the valley unafraid

**We call out to dry bones, “Come alive, come alive!”
We call out to dead hearts, “Come alive, come alive!”
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise.
We call out to dry bones, “Come alive!”**

God of endless mercy, God of unrelenting love, rescue ev'ry daughter,
bring us back the wayward sons, and by Your Spirit breathe upon them;
show the world that You alone can save, You alone can save.

(Chorus)

So breathe, oh breath of God
Now breathe, oh breath of God
Breathe, oh breath of God, now breathe
(Repeat)

(Chorus)

We call out to dry bones, “Come alive!”

11:15 “In Christ Alone/The Solid Rock”

Getty/Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Til on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev’ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

On Christ the Solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand
(Repeat)

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand!

A Prayer of Confession In Response to *Psalm 38.1-7*

Reader: *O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger or discipline me in Your wrath. For Your arrows have pierced me, and Your hand has come down upon me. Because of Your wrath there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body.*

ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(Silent Confession)

The Response of Grace for All Who Believe the Gospel

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ... (Ephesians 1.5-7)

Prayers of Relief and Request

Our Father, we thank You for the rest and relief You have planned for us in the work of the Beloved and for applying that work to us by Your Holy Spirit: **(Silent prayer)**

We pray for a greater daily sense of hope and joy and all the benefits that belong to Your adopted children because Jesus Christ has claimed them for us: **(Silent prayer)**

We pray for our sister church, New City Wien, and Your work being carried out in Vienna through Your servants, Brad and Stacey Hunter: **(Silent prayer)**

We pray for brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors, our loved ones and our enemies who are facing great difficulty: **(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 “Lead Me, Lord”

Wessley, Leavitt

Lead me, Lord.

Lead me in Your righteousness.

Make Your way plain before my face

For it is Thou, Lord,

Thou, Lord only that makes me to dwell in safety.

Lead me, Lord. Amen.

11:15 “The Beautiful Letdown”

Foreman, Foreman, Victor

It was a beautiful letdown when I crashed and burned
When I found myself alone unknown and hurt
It was a beautiful letdown the day I knew
All the riches this world had to offer me would never do

In a world full of bitter pain and bitter doubts
I was trying so hard to fit in, fit in 'til I found out

**I don't belong here. I don't belong here
I will carry a cross and a song, where I don't belong**

It was a beautiful letdown when You found me here,
For once in a rare blue moon I see everything clear
I'll be a beautiful letdown that's what I'll forever be
And though it may cost my soul I'll sing for free

We're still chasing our tails and the rising sun
And our dark water planet's still spinning in a race where no one wins . No one's won

(Chorus)

I don't belong here, I don't belong here
I'm gonna set sight and set sail for the Kingdom come
Kingdom come, Your Kingdom come

Won't you let me down? Let my foolish pride forever let me down
Ah, easy living, you're not much like Your name
Easy dying, you look just about the same
Would you please take me off your list?
Easy living, please come on and let me down

We are a beautiful letdown painfully uncool
The church of the dropouts the losers, the sinners, the failures and the fools
Oh, what a beautiful letdown are we salt in the wound?
Let us sing one true tune,

(Chorus)

Would you let me down? Come on and let me down
You always let me down. So glad that I'll act now
Come on and let me down cause I don't belong here
Please, won't You let me down?

The Scripture Reading: *Esther* 4.5-17

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly.² He went as far as the king's gate, for no one was to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.³ In each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.

⁴Then Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her, and the queen writhed in great anguish. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai that he might remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them. Then Esther summoned Hathach from the king's eunuchs, whom the king had appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai to the city square in front of the king's gate.⁷ Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact amount of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.⁸ He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict which had been issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show Esther and inform her, and to order her to go in to the king to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people.

⁹ Hathach came back and related Mordecai's words to Esther.¹⁰ Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai:¹¹ "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days."¹² They related Esther's words to Mordecai.

¹³ Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews."¹⁴ "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

¹⁵ Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai,¹⁶ "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be to God!

AfterExile | *The Beautiful Letdown*

A Time Like This (Meanwhile Back in Persia)

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “Great is Thy Faithfulness” (all 3 verses)

#32

11:15 “How Great Thou Art”

Hine

O Lord my God, when I, in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder;
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

**Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
(Chorus)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.
(Chorus x2)

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

NEW SERMON SERIES STARTS NEXT WEEK

Nehemiah | Not Just Another Brick in the Wall

The *Book of Nehemiah* narrates the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem following the Babylonian Exile. The work was spiritually motivated but intensely physical in nature. The story helps answer questions about deliberate, intentional planning and leadership in the church and in our lives **while also** being led by God's Spirit. Is spontaneity and spiritual freedom compatible with strategy and organization? This fast-paced, divine-human adventure will aid us to discover liberated leadership and Spirit-led creativity in our lives, family, church and mission and more importantly shows the God who tells His people, "*Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are always before Me.*" (Isaiah 49.16)

Sept. 27—*When God's Burden Becomes God's Calling*—Nehemiah 1.1-2.10

Oct. 4—*Everyone Has a Place on the Wall*—Nehemiah 2.11-3.32

Oct. 11—*Faithfulness in the Face of Opposition*—Nehemiah 4:1-23

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.

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
	7:15-9:00 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	Diaconate 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
Saturday	9:30 AM	Moms Connect (Rec Room)
	11:30 AM	Fall Snail Mail Kick-off (Fellowship Hall)

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.

The Fall Snail Mail Kick-off | Sat., Sept. 26 | 11:30 AM—12:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Learn more about the Snail Mail Ministry and come bring your ideas for how to encourage the body of Christ. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** if you plan to attend.

LOOKING AHEAD AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

Women's In-person Bible Study on Monday evenings has a new start time of 7:15 pm

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 Sept. 27th at DiSalvos Italian Restaurant located at 4190 N 46th Ave., Hwd., 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. We are asking a suggested donation of \$5.00 to defray supply costs. Childcare will be available. Sign-up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. We hope you'll join us for a fun and informative Women Connect gathering!

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

The **Annual Men's Retreat** is approaching soon and registration has officially opened! This year's theme is Joshua and Pastor T.J. Campo will be the speaker. If you plan on attending, please register on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. Questions? Feel free to contact Ronaldo at Ronaldo@parkroadpres.org

Today's Orchid: is given by Wayne & Angie Carey in celebration of several Sept. celebrations:

 Their 36th wedding anniversary-9/2; Dwayne's 40th birthday-9/5; Angie's birthday-9/18; Shauna's birthday-9/20; Angie's father-in-law's birthday-9/14 and mother-in-law's birthday-9/24; Jaylen's 2nd birthday-9/30

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.

