

A Reflection Before the Service

Of all biblical characters, Nehemiah is perhaps the most explicit on “the practice of the presence of God”

--Derek Kidner, *Ezra and Nehemiah* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries; 1979)

We start each day with our personal security resting **not** on the accepting love of God and the sacrifice of Christ but on our present feelings or recent achievements in the Christian life. Since these arguments will not quiet the human conscience, **we are inevitably moved either to discouragement and apathy or to a self-righteousness which falsifies the record to achieve a sense of peace.** But the faith that is able to warm itself at the fire of God’s love, instead of having to steal love and self-acceptance from other sources, is actually the root of peace.

Only a fraction of the present body of professing Christians are solidly appropriating the justifying work of Christ in their lives... In their day-to-day existence they rely on their sanctification for justification... Few know enough to start each day with a thoroughgoing stand upon Luther’s platform: you are accepted, looking outward in faith and claiming the wholly alien righteousness of Christ as the only ground for acceptance, relaxing in that quality of trust which will produce increasing sanctification as faith is active in love and gratitude.

-- Richard Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life*, (1979, p. 101-102; emph added)

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UPCOMING THIS MONTH at PARK ROAD

S.A.L.T. Lunch Gathering | Wed., Oct. 21 | 11:30 AM | Rendezvous Restaurant

Join the SALT group for lunch on Wed., Oct. 21st at Rendezvous Restaurant, located at 2525 Marina Bay Drive W, Fort Lauderdale, 33312. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form if you plan to attend.

Moms Connect | Sat., Oct. 24 | 9:30-1:30 AM Rec Room

All moms are invited to join Meegan Dorn & Eva Fleming at the church in the Rec Room (2nd floor) for a time of prayer & fellowship. Moms of all different seasons of life are invited and childcare is provided.

SALT (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) Lunch Bunch | Sun., Oct. 25 | 1:00 pm

Once a month on Sunday after the 11:15 AM service, the SALT group goes out to lunch! Join them on Sun., Oct. 25 at Millers Ale House located at 3215 Oakwood Blvd., 33020.

Fall Market & Chili Cook-Off | Sat., Nov. 7 | 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Swap, snack, and enjoy the afternoon with your church family! Bring 12 of one item to trade and take home a variety of goodies. **Not sure what to bring?**

- **Baked:** cookies, mini loaves, muffins, or fudge
- **Crafted:** cocoa mix jars, spice rubs, candles, sugar scrubs, or ornaments
- **Something you love:** no baking or crafting required! Bring 12 favorite chocolates, teas, pens, or small jars of honey

Chili Cook-Off: Bring a batch of your best chili for everyone to sample and vote on. Sign-ups to enter your chili will take place next week.

Kids can enjoy lawn games and face painting, and we'll have snacks and drinks for all. Bring a dozen, bring a friend, and join us! *Questions? Contact Jennifer.*

Advent Devotional Bible Study: The Women’s Ministry Team is planning an Advent Bible Study this December. For those of you who participated last year, the devotional is from the same company. This year’s study is entitled, *Joy of Every Longing Heart: Sustained by Jesus in Our Waiting and Weariness.* To help us with ordering, if you are interested in participating, please fill out the ***Keeping in Touch*** form.

A note from Barry and Margarete Carroll: Thank you to everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy to us at our Daughter Christina's home going to her Heavenly Father.

Congratulations to Garrett & Camila van Dijk on the birth of their son, Gavin Joseph, on October 7th. Mommy and baby are both doing well.

Orchid: Today’s orchid is given by Tony & Ema Offer for God’s provision of new employment. 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.

THIS WEEK at PARK ROAD

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	All-Church 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
	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	2:00-4:00 PM	Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Pumpkin Decorating Party! | Sat., Oct. 17 | 2-4 PM | Fellowship Hall
Pumpkins + fall treats + good friends = a perfect autumn afternoon!
Come anytime between **2-4 PM** to decorate a pumpkin, enjoy some delicious fall treats, and have fun with your church family.
Bring the whole family and invite a friend—we can’t wait to see you!

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: *The Prophet Isaiah 40.27-31* (NIV)

Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 “Though Troubles Assail Us” (vv. 1,3-4)	#95
“He Who Would Be Valiant” (all 3 verses)	#603
11:15 “Everlasting God”	Brown

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord. We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord. We will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God
You do not faint, You won't grow weary
You're the Defender of the weak; You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

(repeat song from beginning)

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.
You're the Defender of the weak; You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

(repeat)

SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

SERMON SERIES

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)

- Oct. 11— *Faithfulness in the Face of Opposition* — Nehemiah 4.1-23
- Oct. 18— *When the Enemy Is Us* –Nehemiah 5.1-19

SUNDAY CLASSES | 10:10-11:05 AM

All Church Sunday School | Fellowship Hall

Join us for hot coffee, delicious pastries, and great community. Tables will be equipped with sample ice breakers to get us talking OR your table may decide to “freestyle” and just chat. This is a great opportunity to connect with new friends and families at Park Road. Nursery care is available for children 3 and younger. We encourage your children to join you for our Combined Sunday Class.

The Closing Hymn

9:00 “Onward Christian Soldiers” (vv. 1,3,4-5) #572

11:15 “This is How I Fight My Battles” Smith

There’s a table that You’ve prepared for me in the presence of my enemies
It’s Your body and Your blood You shed for me
This is how I fight my battles

And I believe You’ve overcome and I will lift my song of praise for all You’ve done

This is how I fight my battles, this is how I fight my battles
This is how I fight my battles, this is how
(Repeat)

In the valley I know that You’re with me
And surely Your goodness and Your mercy follow me
So my weapons are praise and thanksgiving
This is how I fight my battles

And I believe You’ve overcome and I will lift my song of praise for all You’ve done

(Chorus)

It may look like I’m surrounded but I’m surrounded by You
It may look like I’m surrounded but I’m surrounded by You

My victory’s in Jesus’ name. My victory’s in Jesus’ name.

It may look like I’m surrounded but I’m surrounded by You
It may look like I’m surrounded but I’m surrounded by You

(Chorus)

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

11:15 “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” Rodgers/Wyse

Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit of glory & grace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way
(Chorus)

Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne
Chorus (2x)

A Prayer of Confession in Response to Jeremiah 2.13

Reader: *For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of Living Waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*

All: **Our Father, we have sinned against You by our thoughts, words, and actions. We have sinned by our own will. No one is responsible for our failings but we ourselves.**

Trusting in some idol, we have gone the way which seemed right to us. The end of that way is death. We have insisted on having our own way and have disregarded Your good will. We have not found, in ourselves, the ability to love You and to love others.

(Silent Confession)

The Pronouncement of Forgiveness for All Who Believe the Gospel

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John1.12-13)

Prayers of Relief and Request

We pray for the will of God to be done in our lives, families, community and world; empower us to live as the liberated and holy children of God: **(Silent Prayer)**

We pray for Ethan and Amanda Brown bringing good news to the *University of Illinois*, Lord, bless their marriage, parenting and ministry: **(Silent Prayer)**

We pray for those in financial and physical need and for our own discipline and generosity to give joyfully as stewards of God’s gifts: **(Silent Prayer)**

We ask on behalf of the lost, Lord have mercy and give them faith to believe You and to receive forgiveness and new life in Christ: **(Silent Prayer)**

trumpeter stood near me. ¹⁹ I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated on the wall far from one another. ²⁰ "At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

²¹ *So we carried on the work with half of them holding spears from dawn until the stars appeared.*

²² *At that time I also said to the people, "Let each man with his servant spend the night within Jerusalem so that they may be a guard for us by night and a laborer by day." ²³ So neither I, my brothers, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us removed our clothes, each took his weapon even to the water.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks Be to God!

The Sermon

— T. J. Campo

Nehemiah | Not Just Another Brick in the Wall
Haters (Conflict and Discouragement)

The Scripture Reading: *Nehemiah* CH 4

Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. ² He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?" ³ Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, "Even what they are building-- if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!" ⁴ Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.

¹⁰ Thus in Judah it was said, "The strength of the burden bearers is failing, yet there is much rubbish; and we ourselves are unable to rebuild the wall." ¹¹ Our enemies said, "They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work." ¹² When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, "They will come up against us from every place where you may turn," ¹³ then I stationed men in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows. ¹⁴ When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work. ¹⁶ From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains were behind the whole house of Judah. ¹⁷ Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work and the other holding a weapon. ¹⁸ As for the builders, each wore his sword girded at his side as he built, while the

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.**

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 “On Eagle’s Wings”

Joncas, arr. Wagner

**And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"
(Chorus)

The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield
(Chorus)

You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come
(Chorus)

For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone
(Chorus)

11:15 “Praise You in This Storm”

Hermes/Hall

I was sure by now, God,
You would have reached down and wiped our tears away,
Stepped in and saved the day.
But once again I'll say, "Amen" and it's still rainin'.

As the thunder rolls, I barely hear You whisper through the rain, "I'm with you!"
And as Your mercy falls, I'll raise my hands & praise the God who gives & takes away.

**And I'll praise You in this storm, and I will lift my hands;
For You are who You are, no matter where I am;
And ev'ry tear I've cried, You hold in Your hand;
You never left my side and, though my heart is torn,
I will praise You in this storm.**

I remember when I stumbled in the wind;
You heard my cry to You and raised me up again.
But my strength is almost gone;
How can I carry on if I can't find You?

As the thunder rolls, I barely hear You whisper through the rain, "I'm with you!"
And as Your mercy falls, I'll raise my hands & praise the God who gives & takes away.

**And I'll praise You in this storm, and I will lift my hands;
For You are who You are, no matter where I am;
And ev'ry tear I've cried, You hold in Your hand;
You never left my side and, though my heart is torn,
I will praise You in this storm.**

I lift my eyes unto the hills; where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth!
(Repeat)

(Chorus)