November 22, 2026

A Reflection Before the Service

My primary pastoral work had to do with Scripture and prayer. I was neither capable nor competent to form Christ in another person, to shape a life of discipleship in man, woman or child. That is supernatural work, and I am not supernatural. Mine was the more modest work of Scripture and prayer- helping people listen to God speak to them from the Scriptures and then joining them in answering God as personally and honestly as we could in lives of prayer. This turned out to be slow work. From time to time, impatient with the slowness, I would try out ways of going about my work that promised quicker results. But after a while it always seemed to be more like meddling in these people's lives than helping them attend to God. More often than not I found myself getting in the way of what the Holy Spirit had been doing long before I arrived on the scene, so I would go back, feeling a bit chastised, to my proper work: Scripture and prayer; prayer and Scripture.

A person has to be thoroughly disgusted with the way things are to find the motivation to set out on the Christian way. As long as we think the next election might eliminate crime and establish justice or another scientific breakthrough might save the environment or another pay raise might push us over the edge of anxiety into a life of tranquillity, we are not likely to risk the arduous uncertainties of the life of faith. A person has to get fed up with the ways of the world before he, before she, acquires an appetite for the world of grace."

— Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*

We may, indeed, be sure that perfect chastity—like perfect charity—will not be attained by any merely human efforts. You must ask for God's help. Even when you have done so, it may seem to you for a long time that no help, or less help than you need, is being given. Never mind. After each failure, ask forgiveness, pick yourself up, and try again. Very often what God first helps us towards is not the virtue itself but just this power of always trying again. For however important chastity (or courage, or truthfulness, or any other virtue) may be, this process trains us in habits of the soul which are more important still. It cures our illusions about ourselves and teaches us to depend on God. We learn, on the one hand, that we cannot trust ourselves even in our best moments, and, on the other, that we need not despair even in our worst, for our failures are forgiven. The only fatal thing is to sit down content with anything less than perfection.

— C.S. Lewis, ***Mere Christianity*** (Book Two, Ch. 5; 1943)

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The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: Romans 15.4-6

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Prayer)

The Opening Hymns of Praise

9:00 "Now Thank We All Our God"	(vv. 1-3)	#98
"For the Beauty of the Earth"	(vv. 1, 4-5)	#116

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 "Same God"

Lake, Brown, Barrett, Furtick

I'm calling on the God of Jacob, whose love endures through generations
I know that You will keep Your covenant

I'm calling on the God of Moses, the one who opened up the ocean
I need you now to do the same thing for me. (For me, for me.)

Oh God, my God, I need You. Oh God, my God, I need You now. How I need You now.
Lord Jesus, Rock of ages
I'm standing on Your faithfulness, on Your faithfulness

I'm calling on the God of Rahab who sees a virgin not an outcast
I lived in the house of shame, it's now His Sanctuary

I'm calling on the God of Mary whose favor rests upon the lowly
I know with You all things are possible

I'm calling on the God of David who made a shepherd boy courageous
I may not face Goliath, but I've got my own giants
(Chorus)

You heard Your children then. You hear Your children now
You are the same God. You are the same God.
You answered prayers back then and You will answer now
You are the same God. You are the same God.
You were providing then, You are providing now
You are the same God. You are the same God

You moved in power then. God move in power now
You are the same God. You are the same God.
You were a healer then. You are a healer now
You are the same God. You are the same God.
You were a Savior then, You are a Savior now
You are the same God. You are the same God.
(Chorus)

You freed the captives then. You're freeing hearts right now
You are the same God. You are the same God
You touched the lepers then, I feel Your touch right now
You are the same God. You are the same God.

I'm calling on the Holy Spirit. Almighty River, come and fill me again

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Request:

Therefore since you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Colossians 3.1-4

Our Father, we confess that we often live as if Christ had not risen and that we often seek things because we fail to believe that Christ is our life: **(silence)**

Lord Jesus Christ, risen Son of God, we acknowledge Your victory over sin and death and judgment; we set our minds and concerns on You and rest: **(silence)**

Holy Spirit who raised Christ from the dead, we pray for our family and friends who are not yet reconciled to God through faith in the risen Christ, draw them by the cords of love: **(silence)**

We pray for Lucas and Bobbilee Tanner and their Good News work on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University; glorify Yourself in and through them: **(silence)**

We now pray in the way 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.

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 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 "Bless the Lord" (Psalm 103) Denton

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me bless His holy Name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me bless His holy Name,
His holy Name.

He forgives all your sins and is full of compassion;
He redeems you from the grave.
He is slow to anger and of great kindness,
And abounding in steadfast love.
(Chorus)

As a father cares for his children, so the Lord will provide for us.
He will satisfy you with good things,
He will satisfy you with good things,
And renew your youth,
And renew your youth,
And renew your strength like the eagle's.
(Chorus)

11:15 "Jesus Changed My Life"

Cowart, Smith, Nichole

I spent my time running to all the wrong places
I thought that I would be the last one that You'd ever wanna see
I was so far gone, the kind they give up on
But You are not the kind of God, to ever give up on me
Oh, Your kindness led me home

Grace came calling my name lifted my soul up out of that grave
Was hell bound lost and then found
Look what You've done You turned it all around
And I can testify I'm not the same
Like lightning from the sky Jesus changed my life

You wouldn't let go, You wouldn't leave me
Followed me through darkness and chased me down with mercy
You wouldn't look back, You see beyond my past
'Cause there's nothing I have ever done to make You love me less
(Chorus)

Thank You for loving me
Thank You for setting me free
Thank You for taking these chains off of me
Thank You that I'm not who I used to be
(Repeat)

(Chorus)

Yeah, Jesus changed my life. Jesus changed my life

The Scripture Reading: *Nehemiah* 13.1-31

On that day they read aloud from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and there was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, [2] because they did not meet the sons of Israel with bread and water but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing. [3] So when they heard the law, they excluded all foreigners from Israel.

[4] Now prior to this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, being related to Tobiah, [5] had prepared a large room for him, where formerly they put the grain offerings, the frankincense, the utensils and the tithes of grain, wine and oil prescribed for the Levites, the singers and the gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. [6] But during all this time I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had gone to the king. After some time, however, I asked leave from the king, [7] and I came to Jerusalem and learned about the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, by preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. [8] It was very displeasing to me, so I threw all of Tobiah's household goods out of the room. [9] Then I gave an order and they cleansed the rooms; and I returned there the utensils of the house of God with the grain offerings and the frankincense.

[10] I also discovered that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, each to his own field. [11] So I reprimanded the officials and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" Then I gathered them together and restored them to their posts. [12] All Judah then brought the tithe of the grain, wine and oil into the storehouses. [13] In charge of the storehouses I appointed Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and in addition to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered reliable, and it was their task to distribute to their kinsmen. [14] Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out my loyal deeds which I have performed for the house of my God and its services.

[15] In those days I saw in Judah some who were treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sacks of grain and loading them on donkeys, as well as wine, grapes, figs and all kinds of loads, and they brought them into Jerusalem on the sabbath day. So I admonished them on the day they sold food. [16] Also men of Tyre were living there who imported fish and all kinds of merchandise, and sold them to the sons of Judah on the sabbath, even in Jerusalem. [17] Then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil thing you are doing, by profaning the sabbath day? [18] "Did not your fathers do the same, so that our God brought on us and on this city all this trouble? Yet you are adding to the wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath."

[19] It came about that just as it grew dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and that they should not open them until after the sabbath. Then I stationed

some of my servants at the gates so that no load would enter on the sabbath day. [20] Once or twice the traders and merchants of every kind of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem. [21] Then I warned them and said to them, "Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will use force against you." From that time on they did not come on the sabbath. [22] And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come as gatekeepers to sanctify the sabbath day. For this also remember me, O my God, and have compassion on me according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness.

[23] In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. [24] As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them was able to speak the language of Judah, but the language of his own people. [25] So I contended with them and cursed them and struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take of their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. [26] "Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin. [27] "Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?"

[28] Even one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, so I drove him away from me. [29] Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

[30] Thus I purified them from everything foreign and appointed duties for the priests and the Levites, each in his task, [31] and I arranged for the supply of wood at appointed times and for the first fruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

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

The Sermon

— T.J. Campo

Nehemiah | Not Just Another Brick in the Wall

Why Can't They Just Be Good?

The Closing Hymn

9:00 "We Gather Together" (all 3 verses) **#363**

11:15 "It is Well" Spafford/Dimarco, Bliss

Grander earth has quaked before, moved by the sound of His voice
Seas that are shaken and stirred can be calmed and broken for my regard

Through it all, through it all my eyes are on You
Through it all, through it all it is well
Through it all, through it all my eyes are on You
And it is well with me

Far be it from me to not believe even when my eyes can't see
And this mountain that's in front of me will be thrown into the midst of the sea

Through it all, through it all my eyes are on You
Through it all, through it all it is well
Through it all, through it all my eyes are on You
And it is well, it is well

So let go my soul and trust in Him. The waves and wind still know His Name
(Repeat)

The waves and wind still know His Name

It is well with my soul. It is well with my soul
It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul
(Repeat)

It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

SUNDAYS AT PARK ROAD

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Before the Silence | **Malachi**

The 2026 Advent Series looks at the final book of the Twelve Minor Prophets, the final book of the Hebrew Bible, ***Malachi.*** Here we encounter the truth that Advent is not simply the anticipation of a baby, but expectancy that the Word will come. The Lord God of Hosts steps into human history, steps out from behind the curtain and makes everything new!

November 29 - Advent ONE - *Malachi* 1
December 6 - Advent TWO - *Malachi* 2
December 13 - Advent THREE - *Malachi* 3
December 20 - Advent FOIUR - *Malachi* 4

SUNDAY CLASSES

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. Please join us or invite others! If you would like to be a part of this class.

Archaeology & the Bible | Led by John Stevenson & Sky McNeill | Fellowship Hall

We'll turn stones into bread each week as we explore by sight and sound the many finds and excavations of the Biblical past that open up our understanding of the Bible. Come and join us, you'll "dig it."

Elementary Sunday School | Eliyah McNeill | Rooms 1 &2

Eliyah is continuing in the study of Gensis.

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 Classes
Monday	6:30-8:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Contact David King at ironaeus@aol.com
Wednesday	6:30-7:30 AM	Men's Online Bible Study Contact Nate Dorn at ndorn1@gmail.com
	7:00-8:30 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Thursday		OFFICE CLOSED
Friday		OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday	9:30 AM	Moms Connect (Rec Room)

Thanksgiving Eve Service | Wed., Nov. 25 |7:00 PM
Come praise God and give thanks for His grace to you this year. Communion will be offered.

Moms Connect | Sat., Nov. 28|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.

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.

The Bible Recap-NT | Wed., Dec. 2 |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.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

Women's Ministry Advent Bible Studies-Advent Season is 11/29-12/24

Monday in-person (@ church) begins 11/30, 7:30-9:00 pm; Tuesday online begins 12/1, 7-9 pm, Thursday in-person (@ church) begins 12/3, 9:15-11:00 am. Suggested donation of $10 for the study books. Childcare is available for the in-person groups.

Christmas Concert | Fri., Dec. 4 | 7:00 PM

Please join us for a time of joyous worship and reflection. This is an excellent way to transition our busy lives and hearts into the real meaning of the Advent season.

Volunteers Needed for Homemade Cookies or Brownies: We are looking for homemade cookie or brownie donations for the reception after the Christmas Concert. Drop them off December 1st -4th between 9:00 am—5:00 pm. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form.

Christmas Open House at Campos |Wed., Dec. 9 | 5-8 PM

Drop by between 5-8 PM to say "Hi." Park at the church and walk over to the manse located at 3418 Pierce Street.

Women's Ministry Christmas Event | Fri., Dec. 11 | 6:30-8:30 PM

Join us for an evening of worship, meaningful discussion, and dinner. Please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** if you plan to attend.

S.A.L.T. Christmas Luncheon |Sat. Dec. 12 | 12:00-2:00 PM | Tropical Acres

Join the SALT Group for their annual Christmas lunch at Tropical Acres, located at 2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, 33312. The cost of the meal is $30.00 per person. The meal includes a garden salad, rolls, baked potato, vegetables, choice of entrée, Black Forest cake, coffee, tea, and soft drinks. Deadline to RSVP and pay is Sunday, December 6. Please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form and note your entrée choice: Sliced beef sirloin, Broiled salmon fillet, or Stuffed chicken breast.

Christmas Game Night | Sat., Dec. 19th | 4:00 to 7:00 PM.

Join us for an evening of holiday fun, games, laughter, and good cheer! Bring your family and friends for a joyful celebration of the Christmas season!

Book Talk Review | Tues., Jan. 12 | 10:00 AM-Noon | Church Library

Judi Ungar, retired librarian, will facilitate a review and discussion of "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi.

Save the Date! | Annual Camping Trip | Feb. 25-28, 2027 | Fisheating Creek, Palmdale, FL