November 8, 2026

A Reflection Before the Service

Joy, which was the small publicity of the pagan, is the gigantic secret of the Christian. And as I close this chaotic volume I open again the strange small book from which all Christianity came; and I am again haunted by a kind of confirmation. The tremendous figure which fills the Gospels towers in this respect, as in every other, above all the thinkers who ever thought themselves tall. His pathos was natural, almost casual. The Stoics, ancient and modern, were proud of concealing their tears. He never concealed His tears; He showed them plainly on His open face at any daily sight, such as the far sight of His native city. Yet He concealed something. Solemn supermen and imperial diplomatists are proud of restraining their anger. He never restrained His anger. He flung furniture down the front steps of the Temple, and asked men how they expected to escape the damnation of Hell. Yet He restrained something. I say it with reverence; there was in that shattering personality a thread that must be called shyness. There was something that He hid from all men when He went up a mountain to pray. There was something that He covered constantly by abrupt silence or impetuous isolation. There was some one thing that was too great for God to show us when He walked upon our earth; and I have sometimes fancied that it was His mirth.

-- G.K. Chesterton, ***Orthodoxy***, (1908; closing paragraph)

Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by an offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

– C.S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory" in ***The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*** (1949)

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE
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The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship: *Psalm One-Hundred Twenty Six* -- 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 "All People that on Earth Do Well" (all 4 verses) **#1**

"Rejoice! The Lord is King" (vv. 1-3, 5) **#310**

11:15 "Great Things" Myrin, Wickman

Come let us worship our King. Come let us bow at His feet
He has done great things.
See what our Savior has done, see how His love overcomes
He has done great things. He has done great things

Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquered the grave
You free every captive and break every chain
Oh God, You have done great things
We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive
Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high
Oh God, You have done great things

You've been faithful through every storm. You'll be faithful forevermore
You have done great things
And I know You will do it again for Your promise is "Yes and Amen"
You will do great things. God, You do great things
(Chorus)

Hallelujah God, above it all. Hallelujah God, unshakable
Hallelujah, You have done great things
(Repeat)

You've done great things

(Chorus)

You have done great things
Oh God, You do great things

11:15 "The Lion and the Lamb"

Mooring, Johnson, Brown

He's coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break, as broken hearts declare His praise
For Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Oh every knee will bow before Him.

So open up the gates, make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

(Chorus)

Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord?

(Chorus)

A Prayer, Confessing Our Need of Present Grace:

Gracious God,
Our sins are too heavy to shoulder,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
We confess what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer carry,
and what has become for us an unbearable fire of guilt and shame.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
Open to us a future in which we **can** be changed;
Grant us grace to grow more and more into
the likeness and image of our older Brother;

We pray this in His name, in the name
of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, Amen.

(Silent Confession)

Assurance of Grace to Those Who Receive the Good News By Faith:

*"...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of faith, who for the **joy** set before Him endured the cross, defying the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

- Hebrews 12.2-3

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Request:

We pray for the advance of grace and holiness in our lives **(silence)**

We pray for those in need **(silence)**

We pray for the Brad and Stacey Hunter and NewCity Wien **(silence)**

We pray the Holy Spirit help us to live in perpetual gratitude **(silence)**

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 "This is the Day" (Psalm 118) Watts, Shute

This is the day the Lord has made, the hours are all God's own;
Let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad and praise surround the throne.
Hosanna to the anointed King, to David's holy Son!

Help us, O Lord; descend and bring salvation from the throne.
Blest be the Lord, who comes in pow'r with messages of grace;
Who comes in this accepted hour to save our sinful race.
(Chorus)

Blest be the Lord who comes in pow'r with messages of grace;
Who comes in this accepted hour to save our sinful race.
(Chorus)

Hosanna in the highest strains the church on earth can raise!
The highest heav'ns in which God reigns shall now resound with praise.
(Chorus)

11:15 "Desert Song" Fraser

This is my prayer in the desert when all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need, my God is the God who provides

This is my prayer in the fire in weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold so refine me Lord through the flame

I will bring praise, I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice, I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

This is my prayer in the battle when triumph is still on its way
I am a conqu'ror and co-heir with Christ so firm on His promise I'll stand
(Chorus)

All of my life in ev'ry season You are still God
I have a reason to sing I have a reason to worship
(Repeat 2x)

(Chorus)

This is my prayer in the harvest when favor and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again the seed I've received I will sow

The Scripture Reading: *Nehemiah* 8.1-12

And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel. [2] *Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who could listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month.* [3] *He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.* [4] *Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam on his left hand.* [5] *Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.* [6] *Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.* [7] *Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place.* [8] *They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.*

[9] *Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.* [10] *Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."* [11] *So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."* [12] *All the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions and to celebrate a great festival, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.*

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

Nehemiah | Not Just Another Brick in the Wall

Lord of Joy

The Closing Hymn

9:00 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (all 6 verses) **#164**

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

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 x2)

The Benediction and Amen

The Postlude

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)

Nov. 8—*Revival Begins with the Word of God* –Nehemiah 8.1-10:39
Nov. 15—*Joyful Worship and a Holy People* – Nehemiah 11.1-12.47
Nov. 22—*Rebuilding Isn't the Same as Renewal*- Nehemiah 13.1-31

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
	10:00 AM	S.A.L.T. Sanctuary Clean-up
	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

S.A.L.T. Sanctuary Tidy-Up Crew | Mon., Nov. 9 | 10:00 AM -Noon

Drop by for the fellowship and to sharpen pencils, replenish offering envelopes, and straighten our hymnals in preparation for the upcoming holiday season.

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.

Hope Women Centers needs slightly used baby clothing and baby accessories for women who do not have the financial means to purchase these items. Drop off your items at the church office. Questions? Call Lisa at 954-773-3737.

LOOKING AHEAD AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

S.A.L.T. Thanksgiving Potluck & Bingo | Wed., Nov. 18 |11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Bring your favorite Thanksgiving comfort food to share. (casseroles, Mac and cheese, cornbread, pumpkin pie, cider, etc.) and a wrapped item you are willing to part with. (Our Bingo prizes). Please sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form and note what food you'd like to bring.

Calling All Cooks! Here is an opportunity to help our ESL students celebrate Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is Nov.26. The week before on **Thurs., Nov. 19,** our ESL ministry will celebrate Thanksgiving with our students! We'll share a taste of a traditional Thanksgiving meal, with turkey, mashed potatoes, corn casserole, cranberries, and a pumpkin dessert. We'll also show a short movie about the Mayflower, Pilgrims, and prayer as part of our country's beginnings.

We're looking for volunteers willing to cook a turkey. We'll gladly provide a frozen turkey for you to prepare. Please return your cooked bird to the church on **Wed., November 18**, so we can have it ready to serve the next day.

We're also looking for a few volunteers to prepare 5 pounds of mashed potatoes. We can provide the potatoes or reimburse you for the potatoes you purchase.

If you are willing to help us, please contact Karen at 781-808-7598. Thank you for helping us welcome our ESL students and share the joy of Thanksgiving. Your time and generosity are greatly appreciated!

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.

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 p.m.

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.