



Park Street Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2024





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REPORT FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



Dear Park Street Church,

I think it's safe to say that most of us are still processing the entirety of what we walked through as a community in 2024. Alongside of you, I have struggled to make sense of all of this, and the reality is that many of us still experience a sense of darkness about it all. Yet, by God's grace, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn. 1:5). God has not forsaken any of us (2 Cor. 4:8–10), and we believe that, for all those who love him, he is working all things together for good (Rom. 8:28), even when we are not able to fully comprehend that. So how might God be working among us for good through the struggles we have experienced? What is he inviting us into as a church? I can't presume to answer those questions exhaustively, but from my vantage point, I do believe one answer—and perhaps the dominant answer—is humility.

I think it's fair to say that we, as Park Street Church, have struggled with pride since our founding in 1809. In his history of Park Street Church, *Brimstone Corner* (1968), H. Crosby Englizian notes that one of our charter

members "observed that the church had placed too much dependence on the elegance of the meetinghouse, its central and suitable location, the attractiveness of the choir—known as the best in New England—and above all, the talents of their minister" (p. 35). While I think I've cured us of the last of these issues (!), it's interesting to note that this sin of pride was identified very early. One does wonder what led our founders to build a sanctuary whose steeple would become the tallest structure in the entire country! No doubt there were sanctified elements in doing this, but it's not hard to imagine that there were unsanctified, prideful elements as well. In one of my earliest meetings with the staff at Park Street just after I began as Senior Minister in the spring of 2020, we were having an honest conversation about the strengths and weaknesses of Park Street. When I asked about our weaknesses, a longtime staff member blurted out without any hesitation, "Pride!"

Experiencing difficulties doesn't automatically make us humble, but

through hardship God invites us to grow in humility, to see our own shortcomings, and depend less on ourselves and more fully upon him. The trials of the last year have highlighted our weakness, frailty, need, brokenness, and sinfulness. This has been true for us corporately, and it is true for many of us individually—and I put myself at the top of that list. I continue to seek to understand and own my failures and sins in all of this. As hard as it may be for our flesh, this is an opportunity to magnify the grace and mercy of our God who loves sinners and, through his love and grace, works to transform us more and more into the image of his son. That is the gospel, and its radiance shines even more brightly when juxtaposed to the reality of our sin and brokenness.

God can use a proud church and, because he is gracious, he does. But Satan can use a proud church too, and, more than that, it is Satan, not God, who delights in proud churches. Instead of delighting in the proud, we read that "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6), and

because of that, James moves to exhort the church in this way: “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you” (James 4:10).

Citing this same passage of Scripture, several ministers from our sister churches (who were called together to help us through a Vicinage Council) encouraged us to gather for a Solemn Assembly in response to the trials we had experienced. We did so on Friday, October 25, 2024, setting aside time for confession, lament, and prayers for healing. It was a powerful evening together on our knees, in humility, before the Lord. The full liturgy for that service is included at the end of this report, and I encourage all of us to review it. As we continue to serve the Lord together, may we remain in the posture of confession, dependence, and humility we assumed together that evening.

Here was our corporate confession of the sins of pride and arrogance:

Our Father, we confess the sins of pride and arrogance. Though you have called us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be servants of all, we have considered ourselves better, more important, and more deserving than others. We have thought of this church as better than other churches. We have been too impressed with our own steeple, history, gifts, knowledge, and resources. Our pride has deceived us and blinded us from your love, mercy, and grace. Forgive us for our pride and for thinking too highly of ourselves.

After this and a time of open confession, we prayed this commitment together:

In Jesus' Name, we renounce pride and arrogance. We acknowledge that we are sinners saved by grace and that all that we have is a gift from you. We pray that we will never lose sight of our sin and your grace. We dedicate ourselves to walking

humbly with you all our days, to exalting and proclaiming you and not ourselves, and to serving and learning from others. Amen.

May the Lord make it so as we move into 2025 together. A humble church is a church of people enamored with God's grace for sinners. It is not impressed with itself, its ministries, its gifts, or its history. C.S. Lewis wrote about a humble person that, “he will not be thinking about himself at all,” and I think we could say that a humble church will not be thinking about itself at all. It will be consumed with the God of the gospel, marked by prayer, and fueled by the love and mercy of the God who receives and welcomes sinners into his family. “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved” (Eph. 2:4–5). The gospel fuels humility, and awareness of our own sin and shortcomings amplifies the grace, power, and love of the God of the gospel. Churches and people that understand and embody this—that are, indeed, humble—are fitting instruments for the Lord's work. As we have been brought low, can we glory in the God of the gospel even more? Can we forsake any sense of pride and recognize that we are merely broken sinners saved by grace, loved by God, empowered by his Spirit, and called to take up our cross—this path of lowliness—with Jesus? May he grow us as a humble people who know the depth of our sin but who know, even more, the greater depth of God's love, mercy, and grace expressed in and through Jesus.

Turning to a few details about the year, there has been significant change on the staff. Some of this was directly related to the difficulties we experienced, and though their departures from Park Street were not what any of us had hoped, we do give thanks for the years of service of Julian Linnell (Minister of Missions), Ray Kam

(Minister to Internationals), Damian Long (Minister of Community), Tammy McLeod (Director of College Ministry), and Tim Leary (Director of Graduate Student Ministries). Several other transitions were related to the normal changes in life, and we are grateful for their contributions over the years. Caitlin Lubinski stepped down from her role as Director of Communications in January to go on mission with her family in Uruguay for several months. Ana Yee-Jones resigned from her role as our Administration, Communications, and Finance Coordinator after she and her husband Cam welcomed their first baby in May. Kris Larson left his longtime service as a Sexton in the summer to pursue new career opportunities. Andrea Zvara, alongside her husband and Park Street missionary Jim, moved to Virginia in December to be near grandchildren, thus stepping down from her role as our Director of Global Outreach. She continues to serve our missions program as a part-time consultant. And, finally, Chris May retired from her role as Minister to Women at the end of the year (well, technically on January 5, 2025). We are glad that Chris and her husband, Doug, remain part of our community.

We have welcomed several new staff as well. Maria Harmon, who was serving faithfully in a part-time role with our City Engagement ministry, took over the full-time role of Administration, Communications, and Finance Coordinator in June. Long time Park Streeter Jonathan Layman joined our staff in September as a Sexton. And Polo Kim began serving as our new Minister to Internationals in September as well. We're grateful for what God has brought to our staff through each of them in this year of transition.

As you will see from reading the reports in these pages, even amidst trials we continue to press into our mission of “making disciples who become like Jesus together.” This work never



ends, and it remains our chief focus. Our corporate **worship** has been a great blessing throughout the year, buoying us week by week, and we have been strengthened by gathering for All-Church Prayer month after month. **Community** efforts centered around renewing, simplifying, and clarifying our Small Group ministry this fall. **Mission** remains a top priority, both locally and globally, and our Missions Committee is energized for expanding support for missions. Our Home ministry to unhoused neighbors continues to experience God's favor, and we thank God for a strong mission conference in November focused on "Proclaiming Jesus." With regard to **catechesis**, in partnership with World Relief and in commemorating their 80th anniversary, we followed a devotional on the theme of "He Was There" during LDI (Lenten Discipleship Initiative). Elder Andrew Ziegler taught excellent classes on the resurrection (in April) and the Ten Commandments (in the fall), and

Mary Harvey and Norm Graf faithfully continued their rich teaching this fall with a class on the Gospel of Luke titled "The Way of the King."

By God's grace, the light continues to shine in and through Park Street Church. While we are not done attending to the struggles of the past year and their aftermath, we are straining forward to what lies ahead—in what I hope is a more humble way—and pressing on "toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14). We are seeking to grow as a community of love (Jn. 13:34–35), focusing on health and warmth at every level of our community. As we join in the mission of God, we will focus on deepening our love for and service of the city and renewing and broadening our commitment to global missions. In all of this, we aim to exalt Jesus above all with the humble posture of John the Baptist who said of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn. 3:30).

So much more could be said, but I want to end by saying thank you to all of you who have remained committed to the Lord as well as to Park Street Church. Thank you for your prayers, your generous giving, your service in various ministries, your patience and endurance. You have embodied the words of Hebrews 12:1–2, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." May we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we move into another year—with expectancy and in humility.

Grace and peace in Jesus,
Mark L. Booker

RANDALL WETZIG, *ASSISTANT MINISTER*



Throughout this year I've been slowly studying the short and oft-forgotten book of Jude. I became Assistant Minister at Park Street in December of 2023, in the midst of quite a turbulent time in the life of our church. Throughout this first year here, Jude's opening address has been a guide and comfort for me:

"To those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for [or by] Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you" (Jude 1b–2).

In everything that has happened this year, the good and the bad, it's been good to remember that all of us who have answered the call to put our faith in Jesus are loved by God and kept from stumbling by him (as Jude says in his closing doxology), not by our own wisdom or strategies.

One of the places I've seen God's love expressed to our church is through the various ministries that I'm connected with and particularly the leadership teams that have made them happen. To save your eyes from drying out too much as you read, I'll list them briefly with some notes.

Welcome Team Our greeters at the front door have consistently expressed a warm welcome into the worshipping

family of God to congregants, visitors, and the many curious Freedom Trail passers-by that we see every week. Toward the end of the year, Anna Koon took over coordination and has also put a lot of effort into building the team into a community.

Hospitality Many volunteers have served faithfully at coffee hour after each service throughout the year, led by our Hospitality Committee and Chair/Deacon of Hospitality, Ralu Gligor. But coffee isn't the only thing under the committee's purview; they also made our Easter dessert celebrations a reflection of the joy of Easter,

they coordinated other special receptions for special services, and Patrick Lynch and his team of volunteers cooked regular meals for the whole church. Sharing a meal together is one of the best expressions of community that we have, inherited from Jesus himself and the men and women who followed him.

Newcomers Lunch Six times in 2024 a team of exceptionally friendly church members, led by Sarah Richey and Dorothy Saunders, hosted lunch for newcomers to the church. At each lunch, we got to know between 10 and 30 people who were either checking



Hospitality and Newcomers leaders share about their ministries on Kickoff Sunday

out Park Street for the first time, or who had been here for a while and finally decided to take a step further in. At these lunches, newcomers get to know each other and church leaders, and have a chance to ask questions. It's often the beginning of friendships and of conversations about how God calls all believers to be connected to a local church body.

Small Groups and Café Over the course of a difficult year, our small groups were often a place where the struggle of the church became real. I won't sugar-coat it: some relationships and groups were broken this year. But there were also wonderful examples of people coming together despite their different perspectives on the church's struggle, loving each other and having peace in the love and peace of Jesus. Looking forward into 2025, I'm excited about the groups that have continued, the new groups that have formed, and new ones that will spring up. I've been encouraged by Chris Nichols who has helped me to work on planning and resourcing for small groups, and by Helena Daniel, who has led the Café leadership team. Café continues to be a vibrant gathering for young adults each Tuesday and Wednesday evening. As I've gotten to know Helena and the Café small group leaders, I've been encouraged by their desire and practice of living as disciples of Jesus together.

Pastoral Care Dan Verrengia came back on staff part-time, temporarily, to oversee pastoral care as we saw roles shifting amongst the ministers this year. He has been so helpful, renewing and caring for our various pastoral care groups, including DivorceCare, Friendship Bible Study, and others. He has also worked closely with Annette Aureli, who is our Deacon of Visitation and has been overseeing Park Street's visitation ministry. Annette and her team of volunteers bring community, worship, mission, and the Bible to our congregants who aren't able to attend regularly for medical reasons. The visitation team (Care Community) has led services at two local nursing homes on a regular basis, and has spent countless hours getting to know and love our wider community.

Amidst everything, I've come back to realizing time and time again that all of this is just about people. God has shown his love for us, and has kept us

from stumbling, so that we can be with him, glorify and love him, and so that we can show his love to each other. At the end of his letter, Jude writes that because we have received the mercy of God, so we are to have mercy on each other. I've seen the mercy and love of God displayed in these ministries throughout a difficult year, and look forward to continuing to see it in 2025. *"To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen"* (Jude 25).



ADAM HERNDON, *MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP*

This year has been a challenging one for our church, including in our family ministry. We saw several beloved colleagues and families depart, making this year feel reminiscent of 2017, when we faced similar transitions for different reasons. Despite difficult meetings and conversations, where differing opinions arose on the direction and goals of our church, there were still many reasons to celebrate. While we said goodbye to some familiar faces, we also welcomed many new ones. We maintained all of our family ministry programs, saw nine youths graduate from our confirmation class, and celebrated their confirmation within the church. Additionally, the Children's Cantata made its return. Amid these challenges, I was also activated to serve as a U.S. Air Force Reserve chaplain, deployed to the Middle East from April to October.



The children's choir performs "Go, Go Jonah."

Though being away from my family and church family was difficult, my time overseas proved fruitful. It was encouraging to witness the Lord at work in the lives of our service members. I was assigned as the pastor for the contemporary service, leading 50 worship services that reached over 2,600 worshippers across all services. I also engaged with 3,200 airmen and soldiers in their units, and had the privilege of counseling 100 individuals. It was a joy to walk alongside them in their faith during the deployment. Another great honor was serving as chaplain for service members who passed away during their deployment. I led a team that received five fallen warriors and ensured they were treated with honor, dignity, and respect. I had the opportunity to offer personalized prayers for each warrior as they were transported home to their loved ones. It was truly one of the greatest honors of my life. Additionally, I helped many airmen reconnect with their faith, celebrated communion monthly, and baptized two individuals.

In the **Nursery**, this year has been a season of growth and joy. We welcomed 10 precious babies into our church family, and it's been wonderful to see so many new families participating in our family ministry. Our midweek nursery programs have also flourished, particularly the ESL class.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the ESL nursery has been filled with joy, as 15 children enjoy a vibrant and engaging experience. I am deeply thankful for all the congregants who joined the nursery team this year—your support means so much to our team.

In **Children's Ministry**, we've been running full steam ahead. We are blessed with an amazing group of volunteers who lead our Children's Sunday School classes. This year, we have continued using the Gospel Project curriculum, exploring key Old Testament figures such as Joseph, Job, Moses, David, and Solomon. We also hosted our first children's cantata, *Go, Go, Jonah*, since the pandemic, led by Christine Vasko and Jessica Pulzetti. In Children's Church, the children focused on the book of Judges, studied Holy Week, explored the parables, and learned about various prophets. Our Kidsweek theme, *Breaker Rock Beach*, emphasized standing firm on God's word in an ever-changing world.

In closing, as I reflect on this year, 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 has been an encouragement: *"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."*

Photos from Adam's deployment.

LEONARD MOSIAH, *MINISTER TO YOUTH*



In the past year, significant progress has been made in the **Youth Ministry** at Park Street Church, reflecting the Lord's faithfulness. The commitment of volunteers has been pivotal in fostering a discipleship culture among students. In my first year as Minister to Youth, I focused on observing and gradually refining the structure of Friday night youth gatherings and Sunday school, prioritizing relationship building with students, volunteers, and parents. The fall retreat at Camp Brookwoods in October 2024 provided an opportunity for deeper connection, culminating in the formation of a youth worship team that now leads our youth group on Friday nights. This retreat boosted student engagement, further encouraged by their invitations

to peers to join. Additionally, collaboration with other churches, including a successful "Friendsgiving" event, enabled our youth to connect with other youth and share in the Gospel message, witnessing attendance grow to 150 from 70 the prior year at this event. The implementation of monthly service opportunities through the Home ministry fostered consistent engagement, with students volunteering each month. A well-attended parent meeting in January 2024 facilitated vision casting and community building among parents and volunteers. Notably, February 2024's confirmation class saw nine students participating, inspiring further interest among other youth in pursuing confirmation.

The youth spring retreat at Oceanwood in May 2024 served as a valuable occasion for leaders to cultivate relationships with students. Noteworthy was the involvement of students in retreat activities, reflecting their enthusiasm and commitment.

The summer provided valuable opportunities for youth involvement, particularly during the annual Kidsweek at the church. The positive experiences from the spring youth retreat

led to invitations for peers to join the upcoming short-term mission trip to Lewiston, Maine, in July 2024. Despite some challenges in cultural adaptation, the group experienced significant relational growth while serving refugee children at the Root Cellar. The strong turnout at the all-church gathering and the youth wor-



ship team's leadership during camp fostered a sense of belonging among students at Park Street Church.

The unwavering support from church leadership and the church body for Youth Ministry is greatly appreciated. Furthermore, the ongoing revitalization of the youth room will reinforce the message that youth are a valuable part of the body of Christ. I ask for your continued prayers and support for Youth Ministry at Park Street Church.



Leonard baptized Caedmon at All-Church Camp in August.

CHRIS MAY, *MINISTER TO WOMEN*



A year goes by so quickly especially when it's the last at your job. I would like to thank our faithful Women's Discernment Team who have made it possible to create the events that we did in 2024—so *bravissima* to Lianne Crossette, Grace Long, Sarah Stacy, Jennifer Taber, and Amanda Wang! Group discernment calls for seeking God's will together, listening to the Holy Spirit, dwelling in Scripture, honestly laying our desires on the table as we seek a group direction that would be best for our church. Not an easy practice in this culture of individualism, but one which has born sweet fruit over the years.

We were gratified by the appreciation for our three-event "From Mourning to Dancing." We began with Tammy McLeod teaching us about ambiguous loss as we shared personal losses and lunch around tables. Those same tables held an antique typewriter event led by Michelle Geffken and her daughter, Abigail. The Welcome Center was filled with clatter, laughter, and delight as we typed out thoughts and feelings and then lunched together. Our third event brought us into the gym as we experienced ballroom, hip hop/jazz, swing, and worshipful/expressive dancing led by Mary Harvey, Elizabeth Mosiah, and Maria

Harmon. We were ready for tea, goodies, food-for-thought questions and laughter in the Welcome Center when we finished.

You may have noticed that food plays a part in our gatherings and it continued to do so for our last event of the season, partnering with Missions to host the Friday night dinner of our Mission Conference. What a delight to not only decorate tables, but also share in conversation and learning about the ways the Kingdom of Christ is being advanced throughout the world.

Our four women's Bible studies and our Lori B. Johnson memorial book club had a flourishing year. All these groups are intergenerational and welcome newcomers, which has always been a goal for Women's Ministry.

As I retire from my role, I deeply thank each of you for the joy it has been to serve you. I give you the blessing and exhortation of our vision statement to carry you into 2025—"to draw women to dwell in Christ and from that place of security to do the works that God has planned for them before time began."



Chris May's retirement reception in January 2025.

NATHAN SKINNER, *DIRECTOR OF MUSIC*

We who serve in the ministry of music are grateful for the opportunity to serve this body by showing up each week to tend to our Lord's worship and to sing and make music over his people. We are thankful to the congregation for the expressions of encouragement we received throughout a challenging year, and we are humbled by God's mercy in allowing our imperfect ministry to continue to flourish as we offer him the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Throughout 2024 the **Sanctuary Choir** and **Chamber Choir** (led by Dan Schmunk) sang weekly at the 11 am service, the **Children's Choir** (led by Christine Vasko) offered seasonal anthems at both morning services, and the **Sunday Night Band** led music at the 4 pm service. The **Park Street Orchestra** played at high points in our year during Eastertide and Advent,

with a variety of our instrumentalists contributing their excellent musical offerings through the year. All of this was supported by Jenn Schmunk, whose duties range from creating our weekly worship bulletins to maintaining the choir music library and much more. Fall brought a new sermon series in Revelation; given the intensity of the book, we sought to rise musically to the occasion. It has been said, "if *less* is more, imagine how much more *more* will be." Along these lines, we seek to offer ourselves to God "with all our might," whether in simplicity or in extravagance—as our Lord himself has shown us.

The choir had the honor of filling (in one case, overfilling) three different choir lofts for funerals and memorial services as we sent off several of our own: our former choir member Michael Brescia (at Park Street); our former Director of Music Alton Bynum (at First Congregational, Hamilton), and our former Organist Roy Brunner (at First Baptist, Arlington).

As a family that has been saved by a God who sings over us, we as a congregation have a song in our hearts—a song that overflows beyond Sunday worship. We sang together throughout the year at joyful times and during challenging



times. We sang to open and conclude congregational meetings. We sang at the Solemn Assembly, and we sang at the reading of the book of Revelation. Many of us sing in smaller, humbler settings throughout the year, from The Men's Bible Study to Café to weekly staff meetings. So you don't have to wait for a Sunday—be of good cheer because Christ has overcome the world (Jn. 16:33), and then, being cheerful (as James tells us) sing a song of praise wherever you are!

Dan Schmunk, Director of Choral Music, rehearses with the Sanctuary Choir.



Jim and Andrea Zvara moved to Virginia in December 2024.

The year 2024 had its challenges, but we praise God that the **Missions** program of Park Street Church continued to be innovative and engaging while not losing sight of Jesus's command to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19).

Highlights of the year included Park Street Church partnering with **World Relief** during our **Lenten Discipleship Initiative** from February 14 through March 28. This commemorated the 80-year partnership between Park Street Church and World Relief, which began in 1944 and was born out of the hunger that emerged in Europe during World War II. Today our church generously supports World Relief to empower the local church to serve the most vulnerable in areas of the world where human suffering is the greatest.

Our missionaries **Benjamin and Esin B.** and their children were with us throughout the year. Benjamin and Esin were expelled from their country of service, which has now expelled

most of its Christian workers. They have spent time processing this loss and subsequently evaluating future ministry possibilities with leaders in the church, their mission agency, and the Missions Committee. Please pray with us as we seek the Lord's guidance in discerning where they should serve next.

Other missionaries visited the church during the year. Throughout the summer we welcomed **W. and M. Lee, Alberto and Joanna Parada, Tom and Michelle B., Mike and Caroline C.**, as well as **Andrew and Sophia S.** It was a joy to have all of their children with us as well as we enjoyed a day at the beach together! **Andrew and Anne May** and their four children also joined us for the Christmas season.

Long-serving missionaries, **Gustavo and Rochelle Karakey** who served for many years in Paraguay and Colombia, were led by the Lord to conclude their ministry and return to Boston. Both Gustavo and Rochelle served faithfully and greatly impacted many Latin American pastors, leaders,

and missionaries to help strengthen the church in Latin America. We are praying for them and for the Lord's leading during this transition. **Carolyn Cummings** also returned to Boston in December, concluding her 36 years of ministry in Kenya, serving children and youth and providing leadership for missionaries serving East Africa. Carolyn will be ministering among us in 2025 and we will have the opportunity to celebrate her retirement on March 30.

While some of these missionaries were with us in June, we took the opportunity to express our appreciation for those of you who serve on a **Missionary Care Team (MCT)**. A luncheon for MCT members allowed us to highlight this important ministry which encourages and supports our missionaries through prayer and practical service. Another opportunity that we had this year to serve our missionaries, was through the **All-Church Prayer for Missions**, which takes place on the fourth Saturday of every month. During this 8:30 am Zoom meeting we heard from our missionaries in real time and

committed their needs to the Lord in prayer. What an amazing way to get to know them and invest in their ministries. We welcome all of you to join in these tangible expressions of love for our missionaries.

In October, we were privileged to welcome **Greg and Amy V.** back to Boston for a three-month visit. They left in August of 2022, as Staff Missionary Associates, bound for North Africa following a period of training in England. After this two-year discernment period, they returned for the purpose of transitioning to Staff Missionaries. We praise the Lord for their passion to make mother-tongue scriptures accessible to the people of the Middle East and North Africa.

Short-Term Missions (STM) are an exciting way that anyone in our congregation can get a first-hand opportunity to see God at work in other places. The Pathways Missional Cohort started the year with an STM trip to Athens, Greece to serve among refugees from Iran, Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Syria, and the Middle East, who had been forced to leave their homes in search of safety and peace. This summer, our youth joined the work of the **Root Cellar** for the sixth year, serving the immigrant community of Lewiston, ME. In October, a team of six, includ-

privileged to get a taste of new cultures, explore our own giftings and share the love of Christ in practical acts of service.

“Proclaiming Jesus” was the theme of this year’s **Mission Conference**. Dr. Uchenna Anyanwu from Frontier Fellowship was our guest preacher. Dr. Anyanwu preached on “Proclaiming Jesus in Living and Service” and touched on the barriers that keep us from speaking up about our faith.

During the Mission Conference the six missions priorities of our church were emphasized. They are:

1. Unreached People Groups
2. Christian Movements in the Muslim World
3. Bible Translation
4. The Growth of the Majority World Church
5. International Students in Boston
6. City Engagement

These priorities guide our decision making and missions emphasis as a church. In Acts 1:8, Jesus speaks with his disciples saying, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Our call is to Boston, the US, and the ends of the earth. This call is to all Christians! It calls each of us to be witnesses for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God may not call each one of us to serve him in an overseas setting, but we can all be a part of his mission! Short-term missions, Missionary Care Teams, and All-Church Prayer for Missions are all practical ways that we can impact Park Street’s overseas ministries. We also encourage members of the congregation to become involved in local missions in Boston. Our **City Engagement Ministry** encompasses the **Home Ministry** and the **Refugee Neighbors Ministry**. The **Ministry to Internationals** offers many ways to be involved as well. Contact [missions@](mailto:missions@parkstreet.org)

parkstreet.org to find out how you can serve.

We were deeply saddened by the departure of **Julian Linnell** (Minister of Missions) and **Raymond Kam** (Minister to Internationals) this past summer. Julian built close and loving relationships with our missionaries abroad and Ray had a deep and caring ministry with our international students in Boston. Their departure had an understandable impact on our missionaries, and in October, **Adrian and Rebecca Tam** felt the need to resign from their positions as Staff Missionaries of the church. Our prayers are for these and others who have left the church and we are so grateful for their partnership in the work of the gospel over these many years.

We are grateful for those whom the Lord provided to continue the work of missions. **Polo Kim** joined our staff as Minister to Internationals, **Karen Patschke** continues as a faithful leader of the ESL ministry, and **David and Roselle Heckendorn** continue to minister among internationals. **Andrea Zvara** and **Carol Scott** continue to serve our missionaries and give leadership in the Global Outreach ministries. **Simon Fowler** and **Earle and Maria Harmon** have led selflessly in the City Engagement ministries. Together with the **Missions Committee** and the Missionary Care Teams, we have sought to meet the needs of our missionaries, and further the goals of our Missions program.

Christ calls us to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). It is a joy and a privilege to be a part of his work here and around the world. Join us as we live on mission together!

David W. Rix,
Missions Committee Chair



ing two mother-son pairs, traveled to **North Africa** and got hands-on experience in the work of our missionaries there. Through trips like these, we are

MISSIONS BUDGET

	2025 Proposed		2025 Budget vs.		2024			2025 Budget vs.	
	%	Budget	2024 Budget		Variance	Actual	Budget	2024 Actual	
CONTRIBUTIONS & INCOME									
Contribution Income	76.5%	\$1,463,985	-14.6%	\$(249,988)	\$(397,977)	\$1,315,996	\$1,713,973	11.2%	\$147,989
Investment Income	16.1%	\$308,561	2.2%	\$6,496		\$302,065	\$302,065	2.2%	\$6,496
Missions Retirement Reserves	5.2%	\$100,000				\$100,000	\$100,000		
Other Committee-Designated Reserves	1.3%	\$25,625				\$25,625	\$25,625		
Other Income (Non-Contribution)	0.8%	\$15,920	0.0%		\$5,225	\$21,145	\$15,920	-24.7%	\$(5,225)
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & INCOME	100.0%	\$1,914,091	-11.3%	\$(243,492)	\$(392,752)	\$1,764,831	\$2,157,583	8.5%	\$149,260
SUPPORT & EXPENSES									
Missionary Support									
Staff Missionaries	44.6%	\$853,574	-4.0%	\$(35,887)	\$(29,440)	\$860,021	\$889,461	-0.7%	\$(6,447)
Staff Missionary Associates	2.1%	\$40,414	-36.0%	\$(22,763)	\$8,941	\$72,118	\$63,177	-44.0%	\$(31,704)
Partner Missionaries	1.9%	\$36,000	-33.3%	\$(18,000)		\$54,000	\$54,000	-33.3%	\$(18,000)
Mid-term Missionaries	0.0%								
Retired Missionaries	3.7%	\$70,809	0.0%		\$(4,412)	\$66,397	\$70,809	6.6%	\$4,412
Subtotal	52.3%	\$1,000,796	-7.1%	\$(76,651)	\$(24,912)	\$1,052,535	\$1,077,447	-4.9%	\$(51,739)
General Missionary Support									
Missionary Visitation & Care	0.8%	\$15,000	0.0%		\$(10,847)	\$4,153	\$15,000	261.2%	\$10,847
Missionary Furlough	0.7%	\$12,977	0.0%		\$1,687	\$14,664	\$12,977	-11.5%	\$(1,687)
Missionary Prospecting	0.6%	\$11,000	0.0%		\$(4,238)	\$6,762	\$11,000	62.7%	\$4,238
Subtotal	2.0%	\$38,977	0.0%		\$(13,398)	\$25,579	\$38,977	52.4%	\$13,398
International Student Outreach									
PSIF & ESL Program Expenses	2.5%	\$47,900	0.0%		\$(8,322)	\$39,578	\$47,900	21.0%	\$8,322
Subtotal	2.5%	\$47,900	0.0%		\$(8,322)	\$39,578	\$47,900	21.0%	\$8,322
Campus Outreach									
Longwood Christian Comm. Church (BHF)	0.0%		-100.0%	\$(24,000)	\$(4,000)	\$20,000	\$24,000	-100.0%	\$(20,000)
Real Life - Cru	0.0%		-100.0%	\$(47,100)		\$47,100	\$47,100	-100.0%	\$(47,100)
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship	0.0%		-100.0%	\$(30,000)		\$30,000	\$30,000	-100.0%	\$(30,000)
Support for Local Campus Ministers	1.3%	\$25,200	-28.8%	\$(10,200)	\$(3,436)	\$31,964	\$35,400	-21.2%	\$(6,764)
Subtotal	1.3%	\$25,200	-81.5%	\$(111,300)	\$(7,436)	\$129,064	\$136,500	-80.5%	\$(103,864)
City Engagement									
City Engagement / H.O.M.E. Outreach	3.8%	\$73,500	-8.3%	\$(6,694)	\$(23,725)	\$56,469	\$80,194	30.2%	\$17,031
Other Local Ministries	1.0%	\$19,000	-24.0%	\$(6,000)	\$(1,020)	\$23,980	\$25,000	-20.8%	\$(4,980)
Subtotal	4.8%	\$92,500	-12.1%	\$(12,694)	\$(24,745)	\$80,449	\$105,194	15.0%	\$12,051
Partnerships & Projects									
Other Projects & Partnerships	0.0%								
One-Time Special Projects	0.0%		-100.0%	\$(25,000)	\$(13,008)	\$11,992	\$25,000		\$(11,992)
Partnership Development by PSC Staff	0.2%	\$4,000	0.0%		\$(3,723)	\$277	\$4,000	1344.0%	\$3,723
Subtotal	0.2%	\$4,000	-86.2%	\$(25,000)	\$(16,731)	\$12,269	\$29,000	-67.4%	\$(8,269)
Missions Conference & Programs									
Food/Service Receptions	0.2%	\$4,000	0.0%		\$(78)	\$3,922	\$4,000	2.0%	\$78
Education, Guest Speakers, Misc. Pgms.	0.5%	\$10,500	0.0%		\$(7,805)	\$2,695	\$10,500	289.6%	\$7,805
Missions Intern	0.2%	\$3,000	0.0%		\$(1,500)	\$1,500	\$3,000	100.0%	\$1,500
Short-Term Missions Conferences/Pgms.	0.1%	\$1,000	0.0%		\$(858)	\$142	\$1,000	604.2%	\$858
Annual Leadership Conferences	0.2%	\$3,000	0.0%		\$(2,630)	\$370	\$3,000	710.8%	\$2,630
URBANA Conference Scholarships	0.0%								
Missions Conference	0.6%	\$12,000	-40.0%	\$(8,000)	\$(9,091)	\$10,909	\$20,000	10.0%	\$1,091
Subtotal	1.8%	\$33,500	-19.3%	\$(8,000)	\$(21,961)	\$19,539	\$41,500	71.5%	\$13,961
Staff Salaries/Benefits & Administration									
Missions Salaries & Benefits	21.5%	\$411,220	-25.5%	\$(140,936)	\$(125,620)	\$426,536	\$552,156	-3.6%	\$(15,316)
Support Staff Salaries & Benefits	12.4%	\$237,056	123.7%	\$131,089	\$(8,399)	\$97,568	\$105,967	143.0%	\$139,488
Administration Expenses	1.2%	\$22,942	0.0%		\$(8,731)	\$14,211	\$22,942	61.4%	\$8,731
Subtotal	35.1%	\$671,218	-1.4%	\$(9,847)	\$(142,751)	\$538,314	\$681,065	24.7%	\$132,904
TOTAL SUPPORT & EXPENSES	100.0%	\$1,914,091	-11.3%	\$(243,492)	\$(260,255)	\$1,897,328	\$2,157,583	0.9%	\$16,764
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)						\$(132,496)			\$132,496

POLO KIM, *MINISTER TO INTERNATIONALS*



It's a homecoming! First attending Park Street in 2014, I became a member in 2018 and interned at Park Street International Fellowship (PSIF) until 2020. After four years of church-planting ministry through Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA), I returned to Park Street as Minister to Internationals to oversee PSIF, ESL, and the Van Baay House.

My calling for ministry to internationals finds its anchor in Revelation 7:9, where John saw "a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." This vision is what fuels my love for the many internationals who are currently residing in Boston as our neighbors. Our calling from the Great Commission to make disciples of "all nations" is here and now! "Yes!" to *overseas* cross-cultural missions; but also "Yes!" to *local* cross-cultural missions to our neighbors next door. Our here-and-now ministry finds its value in the eternal weight of glory that will be actualized in the Kingdom.

PSIF is in a way a microcosm of that heavenly Kingdom with at least 16 different nations represented. We celebrate each other's culture through food and music as we gather each Sunday (during the academic year)

to enjoy table fellowship and singing. But above all, we celebrate the Kingdom culture found in Scripture by fellowshiping through Bible study in six small groups. If Revelation 7:9 is the grand symphony, then we are rehearsing for that music here and now! And living the Kingdom culture takes practice. We *practice* hospitality by having each small group take turns cooking for the fellowship. We *practice* story telling (and listening!) by sharing testimonies in a large group setting. We *practice* joy and vulnerability by sharing gratitudes and struggles in small groups.

We also practice evangelism by hosting **Alpha** within PSIF, as an outreach to international students and scholars who are interested in exploring Christian faith. David Heckendorn, Van Baay House Director, leads a team of five lay leaders to run two Alpha courses (English and Chinese). There our non-believing friends get to experience Christian love through a community of believers and are introduced to Jesus through gospel presentations and discussions. We have been praying over this verse and invite you to join our prayer: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matt. 9:37–38).

Another vibrant ministry is the **Van**

Baay House in Cambridge, where David and Roselle Heckendorn live and serve as Resident Directors ministering to eight international students (from seven different nations!) who are actively serving in the ministry to internationals. I, myself, lived in this community house for two years (2018–2019), so I can testify how life-changing the experience was by living life together and being trained to live missionally. It is an absolutely vital ministry!

I also work with Karen Patschke, our **ESL** coordinator, who is leading a team of faithful teachers and volunteers to provide seven levels of English classes for more than 40 students from various cultural backgrounds. Not only are we meeting the real needs of the internationals, but also sharing Christ's love through building friendships and hosting outreach events overlapping with PSIF and Alpha. ESL is a rare jewel in ministry to internationals. With a strategic location at the heart of Boston, we have tremendous opportunity for evangelism, and it is urgent! "If you've got nothing worth dying for, you've got nothing worth living for," said Martin Luther King Jr. I pray desperately for an even greater impact of Park Street's missions locally and globally, as we joyfully bear the cross and unite around the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations *here and now!*

CITY ENGAGEMENT

It has been an immense joy to see the Lord at work here in Boston this year. Serving with City Engagement, we've seen his hand of love and mercy through the Home ministry (for the unhoused and other neighbors in need), Haitian ESL (an extension of Home), Afghan Neighbors (walking with 10+ families in their ongoing adjustment to the US), and Sanctus Sports Fellowship (soccer with refugees and other internationals). These have been places of clear, healthy mission, where the grace and love of Jesus is demonstrated in word and deed by Christ's body, the church. God has used Park Street City Engagement as a place to build unity, witness and discipleship, drawing us into deeper worship and knowledge of himself.

At **Home**, we regularly host up to 130 guests on both Thursdays and Saturdays in the Fellowship Hall, offering hot food, drink, clothing, toiletries, and handouts on city resources, as well as friendship and spiritual care. Whether sleeping outside, in shelters, in temporary or permanent housing, guests deeply appreciate the safety, consistency and warm hospitality of the space, as well as the professionalism and kindness of hosts who welcome and serve them. God's provision of experienced chefs has also raised the quality of our Thursday dinners substantially, which guests notice and appreciate! The Holy Spirit fills the room full of human liveliness!

As a community, we've celebrated and mourned many moments together. We've rejoiced in seeing guests receive

housing after months or years of waiting, or new job opportunities after finding clothing for interviews in our pantry. Recently, Marie, an elderly woman, shared that she was sleeping on the floor after her bed collapsed, and Simon joined hands with her in prayer. During that day's debrief, one host shared this need, another said, "I have a bed and mattress," and yet another said, "I have a truck!" 24 hours later, Marie had a new bed! We also mourn together for events from setbacks to passings. Most notably this summer, two of our beloved long-time guests passed away in the span of a few weeks.

Through every circumstance, God has been clearly present, ministering to hosts and guests alike. Our Thursday Bible messages and Saturday Bible studies are a consistent reminder of God's grace in Christ. It has been a joy to see guests, Christians or seeking, wrestling with and embracing the truth about Jesus, putting his words into practice, and even becoming regular attenders of Park Street services.

It's also been a gift—of presence, joy, and laughter!—to host these meals alongside youth, families, Café members, college fellowships, and internationals, as well as members of several downtown congregations. God also blessed us with a partnership with faculty of the Nutrition and Public Health course at Northeastern, who sent their students to serve throughout the fall and will again this spring. We see God's hand sending many who do not know Christ to serve with us

and witness Christ's love in action.

This year, we hope to launch a discipleship course to teach the essentials of the Christian faith and the Biblical teachings that motivate our ministry's work, as well as training in food safety. We also aim to strengthen partnerships with both individuals and organizations inside and outside of Park Street Church to ensure we provide our guests with increasingly comprehensive support.

One area of unique excitement at Home has been a growing **Haitian ESL** class for a large influx of Haitian guests, who escaped their home country in catastrophic disarray. Growing from the program initiated by David Tam in 2023, in early 2024 we excitedly launched a Level 2 class with ESL-certified teachers Harry Tong, Kali Souza and more. Along with formal English instruction and conversational learning, Scripture and the Lord's prayer are increasingly used and welcomed by the students. God is also opening doors of partnership with local Haitians and Haitian churches. We aim to provide more bilingual support for the introductory class and develop Creole-based preaching or Bible study. Amidst work opportunities and fluctuating attendance, a core group of learners has emerged with whom we hope to provide greater support and community.

Sanctus Sports Fellowship had a year of growth, transition, and steady reliance on God's faithful provision. We started the year welcoming our players



to our church gym for futsal, many of whom are Hindu or Muslim. During the spring, more players from UMass Boston joined our numbers, and eventually we began to host on a field near their campus. We also started welcoming a greater number of Haitian players, which was a great encouragement. Over the summer, to accommodate the interests of several players and provide games closer to BU, we also launched our first league team, a valuable learning experience that we hope to continue in the seasons ahead.

Though we said goodbye to co-founder Jeff Potts, we were also blessed with new leaders, including a Gordon College soccer team alum, a former high school soccer coach, and a former certified referee. Along with launching more league teams this year, we aim to partner with an existing beach volleyball ministry, welcome more players from our Haitian ESL classes and Afghan fellowship, and create more pathways of fellowship and exploring faith for our players.

Our **Afghan Neighbors** ministry continued to grow and thrive amidst the ongoing challenges of creating a new life in the US. The families we have resettled have pursued stable housing, secure jobs, academic progress, and improved English. Two of our extended Afghan friend circle have even started up their own eCommerce businesses. A highlight of the year was for the W family—after three years of separation, the dad and two older children (with the Winchester/Arlington team) welcomed mom (who was pregnant when they separated) and sons at Logan Airport in December. It was a deep blessing to witness the father, AW, meet his 3-yr-old son for the first time! Even so, major adjustments for the family of seven remain ahead. And challenges continue with many families: one dad continues to suffer chronic debilitating pain from a manual labor job, others still struggle to find financially sustainable work, and many are discouraged by the unstable US

immigration picture as they pursue reuniting with extended family. Through all this, a remarkable set of PSC and other church members across the city continue to walk closely with different Afghan family members, maintaining relationships, giving practical help, tutoring, legal support, English language practice and invitations to discussions on comparative religion. And we continue to enable the regular gatherings of 30–50 of our new neighbors at church and in family homes.

We give many thanks to God for strengthening City Engagement over the last year for his glory, through all the ways listed above, the Missions budget, and the consistent support of

Pastor Mark, the Missions Committee, and the church leadership. We're especially grateful for the collaborative and compassionate support of the Facilities and Front Desk staff who are a vital part in our welcoming environment. We're also grateful for congregants who make a special welcome to our guests on Sundays—their presence with us is a gift that elicits our love in Christ. We look forward with eager anticipation to the year ahead, seeking to build wisely on the foundation that the Lord has laid, encouraging all of the body of Christ to find their place in service of our local neighbors, particularly those in need.

Simon Fowler & Earle Harmon

WOMAN'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Continuing with our mission of serving God by serving others, WBS met most weeks between September and May. Our meetings include hospitality, work on projects, lunch together, and a time of worship, devotions and prayer. This year we knitted hats and scarves for the Home ministry, baby blankets for the Fourth Trimester ministry and Boston Center for Pregnancy Choices, and lap blankets and prayer shawls for elderly members no longer able to attend Park Street in person. We made and shared several quilts and table runners. We trimmed and sorted about 10 pounds of stamps contributed by the congregation (and some albums donated by friends) and sent them to the Shell Point Stamp Ministry, which sells them and uses the funds for Spanish language Sunday School materials. They have raised over \$1 million since they began in 1972. We cut used Christmas cards into ornament shapes. About 1400 were sent to Child Evangelism Fellowship in New York City, where they are given out at a "birthday party for Jesus." About 75 of them were part of gift bags shared by the Park Street Community Care Ministry team at Christmas worship services held at two local nursing homes. A high point of the year once again was lunch with the Missionaries and Missions Office team during the Global Missions Conference. It is such a blessing to hear (in person or via Zoom) what God is doing around the world through these dedicated brothers and sisters. One of the most significant ways we serve others is through our ever-growing card ministry. In this time of electronic communication, we think it's meaningful to get a real pen-and-paper greeting in the snail mail, and our recipients seem to agree. This year we sent around 400 cards to retired and current missionaries, elderly members, words of encouragement to Park Street leaders and volunteers, valentines to members of the Friendship Bible Study, along with get well, birthday and sympathy cards. We also sent a care package to Adam when he was deployed in the Middle East. We remain thankful to the Lord for the blessings we receive at his hand and the opportunity to serve.

BOSTON TRINITY ACADEMY

*Committed to Academic Excellence,
Purposeful Faith, and Flourishing Together*

Since our founding, Boston Trinity Academy's partnership with Park Street Church has been instrumental in our mission to provide an exceptional education grounded in the Christian faith to a diverse student body. We are grateful for the continued support of the Park Street Church.

The 2024 academic year has been one of growth. We are pleased to report the highest enrollment in the school's history (255 students). There is continued strong interest with record numbers of applicants for next year. We look forward to welcoming more students from Boston and the greater Boston area into this unique educational community.

We have also seen growth in program and achievement. The school's outstanding Humanities and Arts programs prepare students to think with depth and nuance across disciplines. Our STEM programs challenge students to think with rigor and precision about the natural and conceptual world. We offer a wide array of AP courses (16) and continue to insist that every student take a minimum of 3 AP classes in order to graduate.

Courses are taught at levels beyond the AP curriculum and students performed well in their exams with 66% of results at the 4 or 5 level. The Mathematics Department offered, in addition to AP Calculus AB and BC, as well as AP Computer Science and AP Statistics, the AP PreCalculus exam for the first time as an option for those taking our regular Honors Precalculus course. Out of the 15 students in the class, 14 scored a 5 and one a 4. Along with our science AP offerings, in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science, we offered an Upper School Robotics Team providing students with hands-on experience in engineering and problem-solving.

Over 99% of our students attend college. We continue to see our graduates win places and succeed at many of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities. We are also delighted to see many of our first generation students do exceptionally well at college.

Looking to the future, we are engaged in an ambitious campus master planning process. Our expansion and renovation plans reflect our commitment to providing mission-focused facilities that will enhance our students' educational experience and accommodate our growing community.

The Christian education at Boston Trinity Academy provides a unique opportunity for an outstanding education that addresses the needs of our time for a wide range of students. We continue to be one of the most diverse schools in New England, both in terms of socio-economic and racial-ethnic categories. We are inspired by and grateful for our connection to Park Street Church. Our focus on Christian education, leadership and justice are evidence of a shared commitment to developing young people who excel, not only academically, but in faith and service.

Your support enables us to continue providing an education that transforms lives and prepares students to make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond. Please continue to partner with us in prayer and support as we pursue our mission of educating the whole person, deepening faith, and transforming lives. Together, we are building a legacy of excellence in Christian education that will impact generations to come.

Tim Belk,
Headmaster at Boston Trinity Academy



Upper Schools Students at Boston Trinity Academy



Boys Varsity Basketball Team in action. Go Lions!



BTA Students at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.



Fall Play Pinocchio at Boston Trinity Academy

PARK STREET SCHOOL



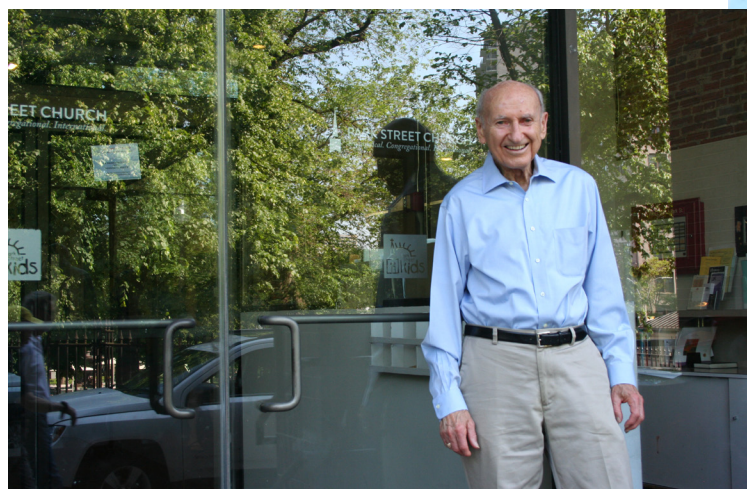
PARK STREET SCHOOL

God's Faithfulness to Park Street School: Celebrating 25 Years!

If you were to ask each Park Street School (PSS) graduate, each current parent or former teacher, current student or administrator what his or her favorite aspect of PSS is, you would get a wide breadth of answers: Doing lab work in Science with Mr. Lofstedt, becoming a PSS Knight in Grade 4, designing your own pirate “hook” for Drama and Music Creative Afternoons with Mrs. Hawkins, or finishing your oil painting with Mrs. Trombetta after school in the Art room. Perhaps it was walking and exploring Washington, D.C. with Ms. Bradley in sixth grade, getting a fist bump from Ms. Maina each morning, releasing butterflies in the Public Garden, or participating in Track and Field in P.E. in the Spring. Many might say it was enjoying the Spring Gala with other parents, or hanging out on “The Beach” on the PSS Ski Trip at Mt. Sunapee, NH, or wrapping up the year on the Swan Boats. Or, perhaps it was having a meaningful conversation with a Reading Buddy from another grade, getting to emcee Chapel, or watching your son or daughter perform in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

As we commemorate 25 remarkable years of Park Street School, we’ve been reflecting on the journey that has shaped our vibrant community.

From the beginning, our foundation has been the cornerstone of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to be a place where students thrive academically and personally as we have sought to nurture curious minds and compassionate hearts. Each child who walks through our doors has the opportunity to explore his or her unique talents, guided by dedicated educators who inspire a lifelong love of learning. This





milestone is not just a celebration of our past; it's a testament to the foundation we have built together in Christ.

Over the past quarter-century, by God's grace, Park Street School has remained steadfast in its mission to provide an enriching educational experience rooted in integrity and respect. Our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment has allowed us to cultivate a diverse community, where families and faculty come together to support one another. Each milestone reflects our collective dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders and innovators. As we look back on our achievements—transformative programs, cherished traditions, and countless memories—we are reminded of the unwavering spirit that defines our school. We are reminded of God's goodness and his faithfulness.



It's a significant anniversary, 25 years. You—Park Street Church—have been a significant partner from the very beginning. As we have been invited to continue to share space, you continue to be a valued partner. We invite you—our partners past and present—to join us in praising God and expressing gratitude to him for 25 years of his faithfulness. Together, as we reflect on the journey we've shared, let us also embrace the next chapter with enthusiasm! We have so much to be grateful for—from our Founding Moms, John Zvara, the original Board of Trustees, to our parents, staff, faculty, church partners, and donors throughout those years. For the more than 1500 students who have gone through our doors, we offer thanksgiving! What a community God has built! As we sang in our Convocation on our Founders' Day weekend in October, may God—who has led us "Step by Step" for 25 years—continue to lead us for 25 more. Thank you for celebrating our many blessings with us!

Kim Twitchell,
Director of Communications at Park Street School



MIKE AHEARN, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

"... let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

These closing verses of Hebrews, chapter 12, follow the author's telling his listeners of the amazing holiness, majesty, and power of God, and remind me of the Kingdom that will come into its fullness one day and what the attitude of my heart is called to be in the meantime.

As I have been a member here for more than 35 years, I have been thinking

again about this passage. As we enter 2025 may we take inspiration and hope from this declaration of Truth from the author of Hebrews that our God is more than sufficient in times of disappointment, trial, and pain. That is what I passionately believe and rely on, and I pray that 2025 will be a year of renewal. I look forward to walking with you through 2025. Let us seek to experience the Chief Shepherd's grace and hope that his grace will surround us as we seek to minister to our larger community. Let us walk by faith and not by sight, hoping only in him and acting in faith as we walk along the path together with him.

May our faith be found true as we continue to be tested. While on some days it may seem distant, the author of Hebrews reminded his listeners that "...you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering." Rejoice that the Kingdom of God is at hand, and that the most important things in life are not to be found in material things, but in the hearts of God's saints as we strive to do his work in this life.

MINISTRY & OPERATIONS BUDGET

	2025 Proposed		2025 Budget vs.		2024			2025 Budget vs.	
	%	Budget		2024 Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	2024 Actual	
CONTRIBUTIONS & INCOME									
Contribution Income	79.7%	\$2,634,193	-9.2%	\$(265,330)	\$(360,038)	\$2,539,485	\$2,899,523	3.7%	\$94,708
Investment Income	11.1%	\$367,950	0.7%	\$2,464		\$365,486	\$365,486	0.7%	\$2,464
Reserves Appropriation	3.8%	\$127,000		\$127,000					\$127,000
Facility Use and Rental Income	3.9%	\$129,620	14.3%	\$16,170	\$2,653	\$116,103	\$113,450	11.6%	\$13,517
Other Operational Income	1.5%	\$48,000	-20.0%	\$(12,000)	\$(16,499)	\$43,501	\$60,000	10.3%	\$4,499
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & INCOME	100%	\$3,306,763	-3.8%	\$(131,696)	\$(373,883)	\$3,064,576	\$3,438,459	7.9%	\$242,187
OPERATING EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS									
Ministry & Programs									
Ministry & Program Staff Expenses	36.3%	\$1,198,835	-5.0%	\$(63,195)	\$(137,218)	\$1,124,812	\$1,262,030	6.6%	\$74,023
Adult Ministries	0.9%	\$30,500	-23.8%	\$(9,500)	\$(9,303)	\$30,697	\$40,000	-0.6%	\$(197)
Family Ministries	1.6%	\$52,000	-6.3%	\$(3,500)	\$(6,773)	\$48,727	\$55,500	6.7%	\$3,273
General Ministries & Programs	3.0%	\$99,180	-10.6%	\$(11,770)	\$(8,653)	\$102,297	\$110,950	-3.0%	\$(3,117)
Total Ministry & Programs	41.7%	\$1,380,515	-6.0%	\$(87,965)	\$(161,948)	\$1,306,532	\$1,468,480	5.7%	\$73,983
General & Administrative Services									
Administrative Staff Expenses	22.9%	\$757,694	-8.9%	\$(73,604)	\$(121,786)	\$709,512	\$831,298	6.8%	\$48,183
Communications & Office Technology	4.4%	\$144,466	-2.1%	\$(3,034)	\$122	\$147,622	\$147,500	-2.1%	\$(3,156)
General Admin. Services & Expenses	3.3%	\$109,595	-23.1%	\$(32,905)	\$30,146	\$172,646	\$142,500	-36.5%	\$(63,051)
Total General & Administrative Services	30.6%	\$1,011,755	-9.8%	\$(109,543)	\$(91,519)	\$1,029,779	\$1,121,298	-1.8%	\$(18,024)
Park Street Facility									
Maintenance Expenses	4.4%	\$145,000	18.9%	\$23,000	\$87,222	\$209,222	\$122,000	-30.7%	\$(64,222)
Building Supplies Expenses	0.6%	\$20,000	0.0%		\$45	\$20,045	\$20,000	-0.2%	\$(45)
Utilities Expenses	9.6%	\$316,000	3.7%	\$11,236	\$(8,763)	\$296,001	\$304,764	6.8%	\$19,999
General Expenses	3.8%	\$127,273	14.7%	\$16,356	\$27,731	\$138,648	\$110,917	-8.2%	\$(11,375)
Total Park Street Facility	18.4%	\$608,273	9.1%	\$50,592	\$106,235	\$663,916	\$557,681	-8.4%	\$(55,643)
Total 1626 Mass Avenue Facility	2.0%	\$66,220	29.8%	\$15,220	\$19,836	\$70,836	\$51,000	-6.5%	\$(4,616)
Transfer to Replacement Reserves									
Park Street Facility	6.0%	\$200,000	0.0%			\$200,000	\$200,000	0.0%	
1626 Mass Avenue	1.2%	\$40,000	0.0%			\$40,000	\$40,000	0.0%	
Total Transfer to Replacement Reserves	7.3%	\$240,000	0.0%			\$240,000	\$240,000	0.0%	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES & TRANSFERS	100%	\$3,306,763	-3.8%	\$(131,696)	\$(127,395)	\$3,311,064	\$3,438,459	-0.1%	\$(4,301)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)					\$(246,488)	\$(246,488)			

JASON ABRAHAM, MODERATOR

On February 26, 1847, Joseph W. Jenkins, one of the original signers of Park Street Church's covenant, reflected on the trials and triumphs of our early years. Speaking on the church's 38th anniversary, he described the deep spiritual need that gripped Boston in 1808:

"It was in the year 1808, when we were in a state of death-like slumber, that Dr. Kollock of Savannah visited Boston. He was a man of superior talents, very eloquent, and spoke with irresistible energy and power. His appeals came upon us like thunder, unaccustomed as we were to hear anything moving... It naturally occurred to some of us that if we could secure his settlement in Boston, it would materially change the aspect of our religious state."

Determined to bring spiritual revival, these early believers approached Dr. Kollock, who encouraged them to first establish a place of worship and a formal congregation. Acting in faith, they purchased a lot on Park Street for \$20,000. Dr. Kollock was unanimously called to serve as pastor. However,

their journey was not without heart-break. When Dr. Kollock sought permission from his Presbytery, the opposition was so strong that he was unable to accept the call to serve as pastor. The news was devastating. Some withdrew their support, and funds. The cornerstone was laid, contracts were signed, and they faced significant financial obstacles, including construction costs exceeding \$70,000 and concerns about debt. Yet, instead of surrendering to despair, the founders pressed on. They fixed their eyes on Jesus and moved forward in faith, refusing to turn back. The Lord was faithful and on September 23, 1809, Dr. Edward Dorr Griffin was unanimously chosen as the church's first pastor. More than two centuries later, Park Street Church still stands as a testimony to God's faithfulness.

We, too, have faced trials this past year. Yet we take heart in the words of 2 Corinthians 4:8–9:

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

The same Lord who strengthened our founders in 1809 has upheld us through every challenge. He is our refuge, our fortress, our provider. This church belongs to him—planted by his hand, sustained by his grace, and carried forward through his people.

We give thanks for our dedicated staff, led by Pastor Mark Booker. God has faithfully upheld Mark and his family, and we pray he will continue to bless, protect, and use our incredible team of ministers, staff, leaders, and volunteers for his greater glory.

As we step into 2025, we invite you to join us in discovering how we can live out and share the Gospel in a way that transforms hearts and impacts the world around us. Together, let us shine his light and advance his kingdom with boldness and faith. Jesus calls us to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Let us resolve to finish the race and complete the task the Lord has given us—the task of testifying to the good news of his grace. As Nehemiah declared, so we proclaim:

"The God of Heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build."

Remembering the words of the apostle Paul in Galatians 6:9–10:

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

May we hold fast to this promise, pressing on with unwavering faith, knowing that in God's perfect timing, our labor will bear fruit. Let us remain steadfast, serving with love and perseverance, trusting that he who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.



CLERK'S REPORT

I am thankful to have the honor to serve the Lord as Park Street's Church Clerk.

As we begin 2025, our church membership is 740. During the year, we added 25 new members to our fellowship. We rejoiced as we witnessed the baptisms of eight children, the dedications of two infants, and the confirmation of nine young people in our youth group. We give thanks for the lives of thirteen people from our fellowship who are now with the Lord. We pray for the families of these brothers and sisters and with joy, thank God for each. We honor the memories and ministries of **Mike Brescia**, our former choir director **Alton Bynum**, our former organist **Roy Brunner**, **Nora Englizian**, **Maura Gelbloom**, **Gary Hawkins**, **Sadie Thibault**, **Ginny Viola**, **Delight Wolfe**, and **Kathy Weld**, who served faithfully for more than 30 years as the accompanist for our Children's Choir. Retired PSC Missionary **Jackie Fowler** went to be with the Lord in May of 2024. Faithful attenders **Ernestine Cuellar** and **Alice Murad** also joined the heavenly host in 2024.

The 2024 Annual Meeting was held on February 25. A vote to confirm Pastor Mark Booker's calling to Park Street as our Senior Minister was passed and his calling affirmed by our membership. In addition to the candidates put forward for service by the Nominating Committee, additional candidates were nominated by groups of 14–18 members for the positions of Moderator-elect, Elder, Missions Treasurer and Clerk. Two petitions were submitted (1) to hold a spe-



cial meeting to discuss decisions of the Elder Board and (2) for changes to the bylaws related to the workings of the Elder Board. The petitions did not pass.

A Special Meeting, requested by 39 members, was held on June 2 and open to members only. The purpose of this meeting was to review the decision of the Board of Elders and Vicinage Counsel concerning Pastor Mark Booker's qualifications for pastoral ministry. The Clerk's role for such petitions and meetings is to verify the membership of petition

signers and to manage attendance details for the meetings. I am grateful for the help and advice of our Moderator and Elders, former Parliamentarian and member **Brian Lacey**, as well as the Membership Committee and other members who assisted with meeting registration and vote counting.



The Membership Committee conducted a Membership Reaffirmation in the fall of 2024. To date, 461 of our members have confirmed that they:

1. Continue to profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,
2. Subscribe to the personal confession of faith (park-street.org/about-us/beliefs) adopted by Park Street Church,
3. Commit to the church's Covenant of Faith and Government (parkstreet.org/about-us/bylaws), and
4. Regularly worship in person at Park Street Church (or are unable to do so due to health, temporary absence from the region, or other similar impediments that unavoidably prevent regular presence in worship).

I urge those members who have not reaffirmed their membership to do so without delay.

It has been a privilege to work with Elder Andrew Ziegler and Pastor Randall Wetzig on the Membership Committee, as well as committee members Sam Beverage, Barbara Carlson, Jeff Collier, Mark Halvorsen, Megan Ibekwe, Dorothy Saunders and John Saunders.

I am deeply grateful for Park Street Church and for the administrative work God has given me to do to support our church. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1)

Debbie Gallagher, *Church Clerk*

STAFF

Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator*
Sean Beaulieu, *Director of Facilities*
Leslie Bodkin, *Director of Enable Boston*
Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*
Joe Ghobrial, *Controller*
Maria Harmon, *Administration,
Communications & Finance Coordinator*
David Heckendorn, *Director of the
Van Baay House*
Roselle Heckendorn, *Director of the
Van Baay House*
Adam Herndon, *Minister of Discipleship*
Jessica Herndon, *Wedding Coordinator*
Kristina Johnson, *Director of
Children's Ministries*
Esther Kan, *Assistant Controller*
Polo Kim, *Minister to Internationals*
Jonathan Layman, *Sexton*
Steve McGaff, *Assistant Facilities Manager*
Leonard Mosiah, *Minister to Youth*
Jennifer O'Mahony, *Receptionist &
Freedom Trail Site Supervisor*
Karen Patschke, *ESL Coordinator*
Dan Schmunk, *Director of Choral Music*
Jenn Schmunk, *Assistant to the
Director of Music*
Carol Scott, *Missions Administrator*
Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*
Stephanie Verrengia, *Nursery Director*
Randall Wetzig, *Assistant Minister*
Philip Wu, *Facilities Technician*
Andrea Zvara, *Director of Global Outreach*

BOARD OF ELDERS

Jason Abraham, *Moderator*
Mark Booker, *Senior Minister,**
Julie Halvorsen
Mary Harvey
Linda Herman
Richard Ibekwe
Gabriel Ling, *Treasurer*
David Murgatroyd
Kirstin Peltz
Geoffrey Raux, *Moderator-elect*
Daniel Vogelzang
Joshua Wang
Steve Weibley
Andrew Ziegler

Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator***

OFFICERS

Jason Abraham, *Moderator*
Deborah Gallagher, *Clerk*
Gabriel Ling, *Treasurer*
Gregg Hansen, *Assistant Treasurer*
Geoffrey Raux, *Moderator-elect*
Julianne White, *Missions Treasurer*

DEACONS

Annette Aureli, *Visitation*
Millard Baublitz, *Prayer Hour: Sunday (AM)*
Lyford Beverage, *Choir*
Sam Beverage, *Children's Ministry*
Bryan Bilyeu, *Choir*
Rob Bradley, *Boston Trinity Academy*
Douglass Bryant, *Café*
Jennifer Collier, *F&A Committee*
Lisa Crawford, *Fourth Trimester*
Helena Daniel, *Café*
Brian Ellis, *College Ministry*
Judy Engibous, *Communion*
Simon Fowler, *City Engagement*
Cindy Frechette, *Ushers (AM)*
Raluca Gligor, *Hospitality*
Norm Graf, *Christian Formation*
Michael Greene, *Grad Student Ministry*
Alana Howland, *PSIF*
Tom Kane, *FOCUS/ESL*
Turid Larson, *Woman's Benevolent Society*
Heather Lewis, *Wings*
Doug May, *Prayer Team (AM)*
Dale Myers, *Communion*
Charles Peltz, *Orchestra*
Sharon Postma, *Enable Boston/
Friendship Bible Study*
Jennifer Powell, *Youth Ministry*
Sarah Richey, *Newcomers & Hospitality*
Greg Rideout, *DivorceCare*
Mayumi Rideout, *Prayer Team (PM)*
Hugh Rutledge, *Alive in Christ*
Sarah Stacy, *Women's Ministry*
Christine Vasko, *Children's Choir*

DEACONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Rob Bradley
Norm Graf
Charles Peltz
Sharon Postma, *Chair*
Christine Vasko

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Jason Abraham, *Moderator*
Lyford Beverage
Brett Bone
Philip Chen
David Cist
Jennifer Collier
Chase Gibson
Gregg Hansen, *Assistant Treasurer*
Joan Hale Leonard
Gabriel Ling, *Treasurer*
Jake Lubinski
Martha Neu
Charles Peltz
Drake Richey, *Chair*
John Saunders
Julianne White, *Missions Treasurer*

Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator***
Joe Ghobrial, *Controller***

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Rob Bradley, *Chair*
Gregg Hansen, *Assistant Treasurer*
Joan Leighton, *Member-at-Large*
Gabriel Ling, *Treasurer*
Julianne White, *Missions Treasurer*

Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator***
Joe Ghobrial, *Controller***

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Jeff Collier
Debbie Gallagher, *Clerk*
Mark Halvorsen
Megan Ibekwe
Dorothy Saunders
John Saunders
Andrew Ziegler, *Elder & Chair*

Randall Wetzig, *Assistant Minister***

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Jamie Bush
Ken Carlstedt
Brian Jones
Charles Larson
Alice Loo
Caitlin Lubinski
Geoff Raux, *Moderator-Elect*
David Rix, *Chair*
Hannah Schundler
Julianne White, *Missions Treasurer*

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister***
Simon Fowler, *City Engagement Consultant***
Polo Kim, *Minister to Internationals***
Carol Scott, *Missions Administrator***
Andrea Zvara, *Director of Global Outreach***

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marana Avant
Lyford Beverage
John Carlson
Julianne Johnston
Tom Kane
Debra Mulley
Gregory O'Brien
Drake Richey
Bryan Robinson
Laura Roscoe
Jonathan Verrengia, *Chair*
Bonnie Ziegler

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Jason Abraham, *Moderator & Chair*
Mark Booker, *Senior Minister***
Brian Lacey, *Counsel*
Kathie Lindemann, *At-Large Member*
David Murgatroyd, *Elder*
Martha Neu, *F&A Committee Representative*
Margaret Sloat, *At-Large Member*
David Rix, *Former Moderator*
Julianne White, *Missions Treasurer*

Mike Ahearn, *Church Administrator***

*Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast; call a*
**solemn
assembly;**
*gather the people;
consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders.*

from Joel 2

*Park Street Church, Boston
Friday, October 25, 2024 | 7:00 pm*

The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before him.

*All stand to sing, and may kneel or stand (as invited) when praying.
You are welcome to move around the sanctuary.*

GATHERING

Welcome and Prayer

Hymn 490 *Out of the Deep*

Introduction

The Senior Minister

The Exhortation

The CCCC Conference Minister

CONFESSION of PERSONAL SIN

Scripture, *read in unison*

from Psalm 139 and 1 John

Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

**And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Silence is kept for several minutes.

Lord God, eternal and almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments.

For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience;
for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those
we think more fortunate than ourselves;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment;
for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people,
and our failure to give of ourselves in love;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our dishonesty in daily life and work,
our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call.
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our blindness to human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others,
and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our negligence in prayer and worship;
for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For seeking the praise of others rather than your approval;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

For our failure to commend the faith that is in us;
Lord, have mercy upon us:

For we have sinned against you.

O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. Show favor to your people,
O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion,
long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath
you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us
and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION of CORPORATE SIN

Corporate Confession of Halfhearted Devotion to the Lord, and of Worldliness

Our Father, we confess the sin of being halfhearted all too often in our Christian life. Though you have loved us first and at great cost in the death of your Son, we have not been consistent and fervent in our love for you. We confess that we are so busy with good things in our lives that the best things—our time with you and service for you—are short-changed many times. We confess that we are often conformed to the patterns of this world and that we love the world more than we should. Forgive us for not honoring you with first place in our lives and for resisting transformation by your love and grace.

You are invited to pray silently, or to offer briefly at the microphone your own prayers confessing halfhearted devotion and worldliness.

Renunciation, Declaration, and Prayer

In Jesus' Name, we renounce our halfhearted commitment to you and our conformity to the world. We affirm that you are worthy of being loved with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We pray that we will be wholehearted, full of zeal and spiritual fervor, and that we would seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. We dedicate ourselves to be your loving children who make time for those things that are a priority in your eyes. Amen.

Corporate Confession of Pride and Arrogance

Our Father, we confess the sins of pride and arrogance. Though you have called us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be servants of all, we have considered ourselves better, more important, and more deserving than others. We have thought of this church as better than other churches. We have been too impressed with our own steeple, history, gifts, knowledge, and resources. Our pride has deceived us and blinded us from your love, mercy, and grace. Forgive us for our pride and for thinking too highly of ourselves.

You are invited to pray silently, or to offer briefly at the microphone your own prayers confessing pride and arrogance.

Renunciation, Declaration, and Prayer

In Jesus' Name, we renounce pride and arrogance. We acknowledge that we are sinners saved by grace and that all that we have is a gift from you. We pray that we will never lose sight of our sin and your grace. We dedicate ourselves to walking humbly with you all our days, to exalting and proclaiming you and not ourselves, and to serving and learning from others. Amen.

Corporate Confession of Sins of the Tongue

Our Father, we confess the sins of the tongue. We have not tamed our tongues, and as a result our speech has corrupted our lives and poisoned our relationships. We have engaged in gossip, slander, and destructive criticism, making others feel wronged and wounded. We have told half-truths or outright lies. We have passed by opportunities to say a word in season that would have supported or strengthened another. Forgive us for all of our unwholesome talk.

You are invited to pray silently, or to offer briefly at the microphone your own prayers confessing sins of the tongue.

Renunciation, Declaration, and Prayer

In Jesus' Name, we renounce the many ways we have sinned with our tongues. We affirm that you have given us the gift of speech to bless you and to bless others, using the power of the tongue to express love and to enhance life. We pray that any criticism will always be constructive, spoken in ways that encourage and edify others. We commit ourselves to be people who frequently affirm, appreciate, and bless with our tongues. Amen.

Corporate Confession of Damaged and Unreconciled Relationships

Our Father, we confess the sin of creating and then not addressing damaged and unreconciled relationships. We have become angry with others, and in our bitterness and resentment have either avoided them or in some way attacked them. We have talked about them rather than talking with them. Forgive us for our unrighteous anger toward others, for our unforgiving attitude, and for our failure to love and pray for our opponents.

You are invited to pray silently, or to offer briefly at the microphone your own prayers confessing damaged and unreconciled relationships.

Renunciation, Declaration, and Prayer

In Jesus' Name, we renounce our failure to forgive and reconcile with others because of conflict. We affirm that Jesus, who loves his enemies, can empower us to reconcile with our friends and anyone else. Help us to forgive others as you have forgiven us. We dedicate ourselves to reconcile damaged relationships by the power of your love and, as far as it depends on us, to live at peace with everyone. Amen.

Corporate Confession of Over-reliance Upon Ourselves

Our Father, we confess that we have sought to rescue ourselves. We put too much confidence in our resources, strategic thinking, and intellect and not enough confidence in your grace, love, and power. As a result, in times of trial, we turn too quickly to ourselves and others and too slowly to you. Forgive us for our misplaced confidence, for believing that we can escape our trials by ourselves. Forgive us for not trusting in you alone.

You are invited to pray silently, or to offer briefly at the microphone your own prayers confessing over-reliance upon ourselves.

Renunciation, Declaration, and Prayer

In Jesus' Name, we renounce our excessive self-reliance. We affirm that You are our rock, our refuge, our strong tower, and our keeper who neither slumbers nor sleeps. You are worthy of our full and complete confidence, and we pray that we will put our confidence in you alone even as we faithfully steward our intellect, resources, and strategies in the service of your kingdom. Into your hands, O Lord, we commit our lives, and we dedicate ourselves to trusting in and depending upon you. Amen.

Corporate Confession of Unrighteous Anger

Our Father, we confess our unrighteous anger. We know that our anger does not produce your righteousness. Too often we have acted out in anger, hurting others and damaging this community with our words and deeds. Forgive us for our anger, for justifying it and giving it safe harbor, and for not imitating you in being slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

You are invited to pray silently, or to offer briefly at the microphone your own prayers confessing unrighteous anger.

Renunciation, Declaration, and Prayer

In Jesus' Name, we renounce our unrighteous anger. You have brought peace into the world through the Lord Jesus Christ, who is himself our peace, and who said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." Grant us grace to live in his peace, and to resist anger. We commit to surrendering our anger to you, and to seeking a pathway forward that is not tainted or dominated by anger. Amen.

Hymn 500 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

PRAYERS of LAMENT

Introduction to Lament

The Senior Minister

Psalm 13, *read in unison*

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

A Prayer of Lament

Sovereign Lord, "you have fed us with the bread of tears and given us tears to drink in full measure. You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves." (Ps 80:5-6) We grieve the brokenness, division, and loss within your Church, particularly in this community. We pray each week that your Name would be hallowed, yet this conflict has dishonored you. We pray for your glory and love to be known and proclaimed in our city and across the world, yet our internal troubles have diminished your praise. We lament the public nature of this conflict and how it has hurt our witness to the city and world. We are grieved by our disunity and separation, and also by the strained and broken, relationships among lifelong friends and within families. We lament the confusion and disorientation that has come upon us through this trial. How long, O Lord? "Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through us, O Lord God of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through us, O God of Israel." (Ps 69:6) Lord, have mercy and hear our prayer. "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!" (Ps 90:14-17) "Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved." (Ps 80:7)

You are invited to lament silently, or to offer brief laments at the microphone.

Declaration and Prayer

Sovereign Lord, “For you alone our souls wait in silence; from you comes our salvation. You alone are our rock and our salvation, our fortress; we shall not be greatly shaken.” (Ps 62:1-2) We pour our hearts out before you, O God, and we thank you for holding our laments, our griefs, our tears, our sorrows, and our disappointments. We turn to you, for we have nowhere else to turn. O Lord, you regard and do not despise the prayer of the destitute. (Ps 102:17) Thank you for hearing our prayers, and for receiving our laments. Amen.

Hymn By Gracious Powers



1. By gra - cious powers so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,
2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed,
3. And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming
4. Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us

and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing, come what may,
still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
with bit - ter suf - fering, hard to un - der - stand,
the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,

we know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
O give our fright-ened souls the sure sal - va - tion
we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling,
we shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through,

and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.

Words: 1944 | Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945); trans. & adapt. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Music: *Intercessor*, 1904 | C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918) 11 10. 11 10

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Hymn *What'er My God Ordains is Right*



1. What-e'er my God or-dains is right: his ho - ly will a - bid - eth;
2. What-e'er my God or-dains is right: he ne - ver will de-ceive me;
3. What-e'er my God or-dains is right: though now this cup, in drink - ing,
4. What-e'er my God or-dains is right: here shall my stand be tak - en;



I will be still what-e'er he doth; and fol-low where he guid - eth;
he leads me by the pro-per path: I know he will not leave me.
may bit-ter seem to my faint heart, I take it, all un-shrink - ing.
though sor-row, need, or death be mine, yet I am not for - sak - en.



he is my God; though dark my road, he holds me that I shall not fall:
I take, con-tent, what he hath sent; his hand can turn my griefs a - way,
My God is true; each morn a - new sweet com-fort yet shall fill my heart,
My Fa-ther's care is round me there; he holds me that I shall not fall:



where-fore to him I leave it all, wherefore to him I leave it all.
and pa-tient-ly I wait his day, and pa-tient-ly I wait his day.
and pain and sor - row shall de-part, and pain and sor-row shall de-part.
and so to him I leave it all, and so to him I leave it all.

Words: Samuel Rodigast; tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878)

Music: 2018, Matthew Merker and Keith Getty

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PRAYERS for HEALING

Introduction to Healing

Scripture, *read in unison*

from John 5

Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

A Prayer for Healing

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who healed Naaman, the Syrian commander, of his leprosy by having him wash in the River Jordan seven times, we pray that you would heal us from our hurt and pain. For you are our healer, O God. We know that we cannot heal ourselves. Knowing that those who touched the fringe of Jesus' garment were made well, we come to your Son, not merely to lay at his feet our complaints and griefs, but to receive the healing that he alone offers. We will gladly take our place with the paralytic, the man born blind, the woman with the issue of blood, the deaf, and the sick, whom Jesus healed. Lord, in your mercy, heal us too. Heal our hearts. Heal our relationships. Heal our pain. Heal our community. We ask this in Jesus' Name and for his glory, and we commit ourselves into your hand. Amen.

You are invited to pray silently for healing in your life and for our community, or if you wish, to offer brief prayers for healing at the microphone.

Declaration and Prayer

For your grace and mercy and power we praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is no one like you. Our soul clings to you; your right hand upholds us. (Ps 63:8) We trust you to bring the healing that we need, and to answer our prayers, in accordance with your good, pleasing, and perfect will, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

RENEWAL of COMMITMENT to THE LORD and to ONE ANOTHER

Scripture, read in unison

from John 15

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Declaration and Prayer

Our Father, we are yours; this church is yours. We surrender to you and depend upon you to build us and shape us, and we say with Jesus: not our will but yours be done. Have your way among us, for you are our Father and we are your children. This day we renew our commitment to live together as your people, surrendering to you and taking refuge in you. In your grace and mercy, empower us through your Holy Spirit to fulfill this commitment, to be holy, and to love one another as your Son has loved us—that we might stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, (Phil 1:27) for the glory of your Name.

Hymn 535 *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

Hymn 26 *Tell Out, My Soul*

Closing Prayer

All are invited to the Welcome Center to break the fast.

*Thank you to Ron Hamilton and the members of the Vicinage Council,
who recommended the Solemn Assembly to us.*

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