



PARK STREET CHURCH
Evangelical. Congregational. International.



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Park Street Church · Boston, Massachusetts
December 24, 2020 · 5:00 PM

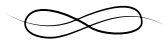
ORDER *of* WORSHIP

*The People are invited to kneel, sit, and stand by indication in this printed booklet; do not wait for a verbal cue. Read the text in **bold** type. The service proceeds without instruction or announcement.*

This solemn, joyful liturgy is taken from the broad traditions of the Church and from past practices of Park Street Church. Solemnity and formality fit the great magnitude of the joyous occasion we celebrate, infusing every element with rich meaning, grounded in the concept of worshiping “in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14).

Candles have long been used in Christian worship, representing specifically the light of Christ and generally the Divine presence we enter when we come together before God. At Christmas, candles take on particular poignancy: light shining in the darkness, warmth glowing in the cold, and life flickering amid stillness.

Tonight, consider lighting candles wherever you are, to set apart the room for God’s worship. Put aside several more candles, one for each person in your home, which can be lit later in the service at the appointed time.



PRELUDE

Good Christian Men, Rejoice
Nathan Skinner, organ

J. S. Bach
(1685–1750)

Pifa “There were shepherds abiding in the fields,” from Messiah
String Quartet

G. F. Handel
(1685–1759)

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
Nathan Skinner, organ

J. Brahms
(1833–1897)

Allegro and Pastorale from “Christmas Concerto”
String Quartet

A. Corelli
(1653–1713)

☞ **Immediately at the conclusion of the prelude, the People stand. The Minister calls the People to worship from outside the sanctuary and the procession follows.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Minister Alleluia! Unto us a child is born.

People **O Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!**

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of _____ God, _____ Light _____ of _____ Light, _____
 3. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

O come ye, O come _____ ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Lo! he ab - hors _____ not the Vir - gin's womb;
 we would em - brace _____ thee, with love _____ and awe;

come and be - hold him born the King of An - gels:
 tver - y _____ God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:
 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ _____ the Lord!

4 (*in unison*)
Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God_ in_ the_ highest:
O, come, let us adore him ...

5 (*in unison*)
Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee_ be_ glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O, come, let us adore him ...

[†]*very*: from Latin *veritas*, the word historically meant *true*. Stanza three is based on the Nicene Creed, “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made...”

Words and Music: *Adeste Fideles* in “*Cantus Diversi*,” 1751 | John Francis Wade (1711–1786)
trans. 1841 | Frederick Oakley (1802–1880)
harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

PRAYER of INVOCATION

Lyford Beverage, *Elder*

Elder Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Savior. Eternal God and Father, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN N^o 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

¶ *The People sit.*

The OLD TESTAMENT

Joseph Wang

Isaiah 62:6–12

⁶On your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have set watchmen;
all the day and all the night
they shall never be silent.
You who put the LORD in remembrance,
take no rest,
⁷and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it a praise in the earth.
⁸The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
“I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink your wine
for which you have labored;
⁹but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in the courts of my sanctuary.”

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.
¹¹Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”
¹²And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

The **PSALM**

96 *Cantate Domino*

¹O sing unto the Lord a new song;
sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
²Sing unto the Lord and praise his Name;
be telling of his salvation from day to day.
³Declare his honor unto the nations,
and his wonders unto all peoples.
⁴For the Lord is great, and highly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord that made the heavens.
⁶Glory and worship are before him;
pow'r and honor are in his sanctuary.
⁷Ascribe unto the Lord, O you families of the peoples,
ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.
⁸Ascribe unto the Lord the honor due unto his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
⁹O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations, "The Lord is King;
it is he who has made the round world so firm
that it cannot be moved;
he shall judge the peoples righteously."
¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
¹²Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it;
then shall all the trees of the wood
rejoice before the Lord.
¹³For he comes, for he comes to judge the earth,
and with righteousness to judge the world,
and the peoples with his truth.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Music: Osborne Peasgood (1902–1962)

The **EPISTLE**

Hebrews 1:1–4

Grant Lewis

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

¶ *The People stand.*

HYMN No 195

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

¶ *The People remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.*

The **GOSPEL**

Anna Dedeke and Rebecca Robinson

Luke 2:1–20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths

and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling

cloths and lying in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those
with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”
¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and

Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.
²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

¶ *The People sit.*

ANTHEM

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Where shepherds lately knelt
and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief,
a pilgrim strangely stirred,
but there is room and welcome there for me.

How should I not have known
Isaiah would be there,
his prophecies fulfilled?
With pounding heart I stare:
a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace, for me.

In that unlikely place
I find him as they said:
sweet newborn babe, how frail!
and in a manger bed,
a still, small Voice to cry one day for me.

Can I, will I forget
how Love was born, and burned
its way into my heart
unasked, unforced, unearned,
to die, to live, and not alone for me?

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919–2008) | Music: 1987, Carl Schalk (b. 1929)

SERMON

The Word Became Flesh

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

¶ *The People stand.*

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

¶ *The People kneel or sit.*

The PRAYERS

Minister Offering our own silent prayers in the time provided, let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. *(silent prayer)*

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. *(silent prayer)*

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to [...] and to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. *(silent prayer)*

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. *(silent prayer)*

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with all the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

¶ *The People stand.*

The PEACE

Minister The angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with your spirit.** *{Greet one another with the peace of Christ.}*

¶ *The People sit.*

OFFERING

Minister For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Offerings may be given online at www.parkstreet.org/give

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But only his mother in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give him, —
Give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830–1894) | Music: Harold Darke (1888–1976)

¶ *The People stand.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay
keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2 They lookéd up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell ...

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star where'er it went.
Nowell ...

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell ...

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell ...

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth
of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell ...

PRAYER of DEDICATION

Minister Giver of every good and perfect gift, tribute and praises we bring to you. Let the words of our mouths proclaim the dawn of redemption Christ inaugurates. Use our talents to spread abroad the good news of his reconciling love, that all people may find in him the abundant life he so richly promised. God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

The LIGHTING of CANDLES

Minister Arise, shine, for your light has come! (*Light candles*) Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world," but he also said, "you are the light of the world." Christ our Light has made us a light, that through us the good news of salvation would shine to the ends of the earth.

¶ *The People are invited to kneel in adoration before the King of kings, dimming lights at home as the lights in the church are dimmed, remembering that Christ was born in the dark of night. The hymn will begin after a brief interval. Remain kneeling during the hymn and the Last Gospel.*

HYMN No 210

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

The LAST GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¶ *The People stand.*

The DISMISSAL from Luke 2

Minister Let us pray.

People Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King:
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!”
 joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with th’angelic host proclaim,
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King.”*

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord!
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
 veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 hail th’incarnate Deity,
 pleased as man with men to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing...

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 light and life to all he brings,
 ris’n with healing in his wings.
 mild he lays his glory by,
 born that man no more may die,
 born to raise the sons of earth,
 born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing...

4 Come, Desire of Nations, come,
 fix in us thy humble home;
 rise, the woman’s conqu’ring seed,
 bruise in us the serpent’s head.
 Adam’s likeness, Lord, efface,
 stamp thine image in its place:
 Second Adam from above,
 reinstate us in thy love.

Hark! the herald angels sing...

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
 Nathan Skinner, organ

Keith Chapman
 (1945–1989)



Merry Christmas!

We invite you back on Sunday for one our worship services:
 8:30 AM (in person) 11:00 AM & 4:00 PM (via livestream).

SERVICE LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

PREACHER	Mark Booker, <i>Senior Minister</i>
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Kris Perkins, <i>Associate Minister</i> Michael Balboni, <i>Assistant Minister</i>
ELDER	Lyford Beverage
LAY READERS	Joseph Wang Grant Lewis Anna Dedeke Rebecca Robinson
ACOLYTES	Ellen Skinner & Marie Skinner
MINISTRY OF MUSIC	Nathan Skinner, <i>Director of Music</i> Daniel Schmunk, <i>Director of Choral Music</i> Members of the Sanctuary Choir Amy Galluzzo & Sarah Skinner, <i>violin</i> Anna Stromer, <i>viola</i> Karen Monroe, <i>cello</i>
SANCTUARY DECORATIONS	Jennifer Schmunk, <i>assistant to the Director of Music</i> Lizabeth Malanga Gregory O'Brien Adam Herndon, <i>Minister to Families</i>

A complete staff directory can be found at www.parkstreet.org/about-us/staff/