



*The people walking  
in darkness have  
seen a great light.*

*Isaiah 9:2*

SERVICE *of* HOLY COMMUNION

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, December 3, 2023

*The First Sunday of Advent*

*Welcome to Park Street Church! We're glad you're worshiping with us today. If you're new, please take a look at the "NEW" section on the back cover for some ways to connect with us.*

*This bulletin contains instructions (usually next to the pilcrow symbol ¶) and explanations meant to help us fully participate in our worship of God. The People read **bold text** with a loud voice. Scripture lessons are from the English Standard Version.*

*Today begins the four-week season of Advent, a word derived from the Latin Adventus, which means "arrival" or "coming," and is considered the beginning of the Church year. During these four weeks, we highlight the fact that we are an expectant people awaiting the return of our King, Jesus, to his world and his people. We look back upon the first Advent, Christ's coming in humility, and we remember the anticipation and expectation of God's people awaiting the coming of the Messiah. The season is marked by hopeful waiting and renewed repentance.*

*Purple is the traditional color of preparation and penitence, and is used during Advent and Lent. Purple was historically the color of kings (the dye was extremely costly) so the color also emphasizes the royalty of Christ Jesus (cf. John 19).*

*Musical Note: The Introits this Advent will be premieres, from a collection by renowned composer Carol Barnett, sister of Park Street's own Elaine Phillips. The music ministry commissioned these works in honor of Michael Brescia's forty-five years of service to the choir.*

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## THE PRELUDE

¶ *Music is played by the musicians to prepare us in body and mind to enter the presence of God.*

*Sinfony from Messiah*

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

## INTROIT (II am)

*O Antiphons I. O Sapientia (World Premiere - see above)*

*O Sapientia: O Wisdom,  
which camest out of the mouth of the Most High,  
and reachest from one end to another,  
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:  
Come, teach us the way of prudence.*

Words: Traditional | Music: 2022, Carol Barnett (b. 1949)

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

¶ *Immediately when the candle is lit, the People stand.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*from 1 Peter 1*

*Leader* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

*People* According to his great mercy, he has given us new birth  
into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
from the dead!

*Leader* He has promised us an inheritance  
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,  
and we are being guarded by God's power for a salvation  
ready to be revealed in the last time.

*People* Though we have not seen him, we love him.  
Though we do not now see him, we believe in him.  
We are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,  
for we are receiving the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls.  
Let us worship the Lord of Hope!

HYMN

Nº 324 Christ is Coming

NEANDER

INVOCATION, CONFESSION OF SIN, & THE LORD'S PRAYER

¶ *Led by the Elder*

Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our coming day's bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into trial, but deliver us from the Evil One.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

*Leader* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And with your spirit.

¶ *Greet one another in the peace of Christ. Following the Peace, the People sit.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM  
(II am)

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Words: Isaiah 40:5 | Music: G. F. Handel (1685-1759), from *Messiah*

THE FIRST LESSON

*Deuteronomy 7:6-11*

*per Bible p. 152*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

HYMN

¶ *A Minister prays for the Children. The People stand; Children are dismissed to Children's Church during the hymn.*

Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

MERTON

1. Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing,  
 2. Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing,  
 3. Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed,  
 4. so when next he comes in glo - ry,  
 5. Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing

1. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say; "Cast a - way the  
 2. from earth's bond - age let us rise; Christ, our sun, all  
 3. comes with par - don down from heav'n; let us haste, with  
 4. and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mer - cy  
 5. to the Fa - ther and the Son, with the ev - er -

1. works of dark - ness, O ye chil - dren of the day.”  
 2. ill dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 3. tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
 4. he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
 5. last - ing Spi - rit, while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: *Vox clara ecce intonat*, c. 6th cent. | Ambrosian breviary hymn for Advent  
 trans. 1849 | Edward Caswall (1814-1878)  
 Music: *Merton*, 1850 | William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Stanza 1 see Romans 13:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6  
 Stanza 2 see Isaiah 60:1-3, Rev. 22:16  
 Stanza 3 see John 1:29, Romans 3:24, James 4:8-9  
 Stanza 4 see Luke 21: 26-27, Psalm 103:10, James 4:8

☪ *The People sit.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

*I Corinthians 1:26-31*

*pew Bible p.952*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## THE GLORIA PATRI

☪ *The People stand. (Hymn No 734)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
 world without end. Amen, Amen.

☪ *Following the prayer, the People sit.*

## SERMON

The People of the Cross

Mark Booker

¶ *The People stand. (Children return from Children's Church during the hymn.)*

## HYMN

Praise to the Holiest in the Height

GERONTIUS



1. Praise to the Ho - liest in the height, and in the
2. O lov - ing wis - dom of our God! When all was
3. O wis - est love! that flesh and blood (which did in
4. O gen - erous love! that he, who smote in man for
5. and in the gar - den sec - ret - ly, and on the
6. Praise to the Ho - liest in the height, and in the



1. depth be praise; in all his words most
2. sin and shame, a sec - ond Ad - am
3. Ad - am fail, should strive a - fresh a -
4. man the foe, the dou - ble ag - o -
5. cross on high, should teach his breth - ren,
6. depth be praise; in all his words most



1. won - der - ful, most sure in all his ways!
2. to the fight and to the res - cue came.
3. gainst the foe, should strive and should pre - vail.
4. ny in man for man should un - der - go;
5. and in - spire to suf - fer and to die.
6. won - der - ful, most sure in all his ways!

*Double agony* refers to Christ's agony of body and of soul; the latter is particularly connected with his time alone in the Garden of Gethsemane (cf. Matt. 26:38; Luke 22:44).

Words: John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Music: *Gerontius* | John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

¶ *The People sit.*

## TESTIMONY

### APOSTLES' CREED

¶ *Standing, the People say together*

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS

¶ *The People kneel or sit. A Minister leads the People in prayer for the world, the church, the sick, and the suffering.*

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

*from Psalm 51*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.  
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

#### OFFERTORY

¶ *The People sit. The offering plates are passed while music is offered to the Lord.*

Sleepers, Wake *from Cantata 140*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

#### PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

¶ *The People stand and sing as the offerings are brought forward by the ushers. A Minister then presents them to the Lord in prayer.*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### THE LORD'S SUPPER

¶ *All baptized believers, along with their baptized children, are invited to partake of the Sacrament by proceeding up to the front (as directed by the ushers) to receive the elements, which should be consumed immediately. Gluten-free wafers are available.*

*During the distribution of the elements, the People sing the following hymns:*

Nº 193 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

1. Come, thou Re-deem - er of the earth, and ma - ni -  
2. Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, but of the  
3. From God the Fa - ther he pro - ceeds, to God the  
4. O e - qual to the Fa - ther, thou! Gird on thy  
5. Thy cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright, and dark - ness

1. fest thy vir - gin birth: let ev - ery age a -  
2. Spi - rit, thou art still the Word of God, in  
3. Fa - ther back he speeds, runs out his course to  
4. flesh - ly man - tle now; the weak - ness of our  
5. glow with new - born light, no more shall night ex -

1. dor - ing fall; such birth be - fits the God of all.  
2. flesh ar - rayed, the Sav - ior, now to man dis - played.  
3. death and hell, re - turns on God's high throne to dwell.  
4. mor - tal state with death - less might in - vig - or - ate.  
5. tin - guish day, where love's bright beams their power dis - play.

6. O Jesus, Virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost, for evermore.

## HYMN

 *The People stand.*

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY



1. Lo! he comes with clouds descend - ing, once for  
 2. Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him robed in  
 3. Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
 4. Yea, A - men, let all a - dore thee, high on



fav - ored sin - ners slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
 naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the  
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
 power and glo - ry, claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia God ap - pears on earth to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Ev - er - last - ing God, come down!

Words: 1758 | Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Helmsley* | melody attr. Thomas Olivers (1725-1799) or Thomas Arne (1710-1778)

harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

¶ *The People may sit or leave quietly. Please be respectful of those listening to the music.*

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

James Vivian (b. 1974)

*To mark the occasion of a new Church Year and to call the world to “wake up” (see Matt.24:29–51), three bells are rung at the conclusion of the service.*

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## SERVICE LEADERS AND PARTICIPANT

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*

ASSISTING MINISTERS Julian L., *Minister of Missions*

Raymond Kam, *Minister to Internationals*

ELDER 8:30 Stephen Adams

11:00 Leslie Liu

LAY READERS 8:30 Stuart DeLorme

11:00 Emma Verrengia

ADVENT WREATH 8:30 The Gabrielse-Lowry Family

11:00 The Henry Family

MUSICIANS The Sanctuary Choir; Daniel Schmunk, *Director of Choral Music*

The Park Street Orchestra

A complete staff directory can be found at [parkstreet.org/about-us/staff](http://parkstreet.org/about-us/staff)

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## COLLECTIVE PRAYERS

*“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:11-13*

### Let us pray together...

- That God would open our eyes to our own ungodliness and lead us to living in the mold of Jesus Christ.
- For leaders in the world: politicians, scholars, celebrities, and influencers, that they would come to see the goodness of Jesus, that they would repent, and that they would point others toward Jesus, our true and needed king.
- For peace in the world and that God would show his care in physical and relational means to those suffering from violence.

Send your prayer requests to [pastoralcare@parkstreet.org](mailto:pastoralcare@parkstreet.org) or call 617-523-3383

## ADVENT READINGS

*For this year's Advent readings, we're engaging in dialogue with our Regional Fellowships in the Church Center app. For those preferring print, a weekly list of readings is also included in the morning bulletin or on our website at [parkstreet.org/advent](http://parkstreet.org/advent).*

### **Advent Day 1 | Sun, Dec 3 | Psalm 80 | Mark 13:24-37**

One of the things we tend not to be very good at is waiting. However, in both of our passages today we are called to wait on the Lord's timing. In Psalm 80, the key feature of the Psalm is a prayer for God to restore and to save. In Mark 13, Jesus talks about the day when he will return and restore all things. In the season of Advent, we are looking towards this day when Jesus will return. What does it mean for us to "keep awake" as God's people while we wait for Jesus to return? What gives you hope in these passages?

### **Advent Day 2 | Mon, Dec 4 | Psalm 51 | Isaiah 64:1-9**

Both these readings acknowledge the pervasiveness of sin in our world and the longing for God's deliverance from that sin. Why do the Biblical writers describe sin as "uncleanness"? What does the process of becoming clean teach us about repentance and forgiveness? What is the hoped-for result of God's deliverance in each passage?

### **Advent Day 3 | Tue, Dec 5 | Psalm 130 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

What do this Psalm and passage from 1 Corinthians have to say about why God asks his people to wait? Is there a straightforward answer?

### **Advent Day 4 | Wed, Dec 6 | Psalm 50 | Joel 2:1-11**

This passage from the prophet Joel paints a devastating picture. The day of the LORD is coming and no one will escape the annihilation of the LORD's army. Why do you think Joel is pulling no punches here? How often does this kind of picture enter your own thinking or speech?

### **Advent Day 5 | Thu, Dec 7 | Psalm 39 | Joel 2:12-17**

These passages speak of the fleeting nature of our existence and the need for repentance. When you think of these truths, meditate on why we so often can be ignorant of our own need for repentance. What may cause you to be unaware of your own sinful tendencies?

### **Advent Day 6 | Fri, Dec 8 | Psalm 25 | Luke 12:35-40**

Both Psalm 25 and Luke 12:35-40 deal with the concepts of time and waiting. How is time characterized in each passage? Trace the instances where waiting shows up. What do we learn about what waiting for the Lord looks like?

### **Advent Day 7 | Sat, Dec 9 | Psalm 128 | Luke 12:41-48**

What are some categories of things that the Lord gives his people responsibility for? Try to think beyond the usual list. What does the psalm and the passage from Luke say about the importance of our work?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Important Dates*

Mon, Dec 4 | 7:00 pm | Blue Christmas  
Sun, Dec 10 | 7:00 pm | A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols  
Sun, Dec 24 | 11:00 am | Morning Service  
Sat, Dec 24 | 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00 pm | Christmas Eve Services  
Sun, Dec 31 | 11:00 am | Morning Service

**Advent Around the World | Sun, Dec 3, 10 & 17 | 9:45 am & 5:30 pm | Granary Room**  
In this Christian Formation series, learn how Christians live out their faith and engage with Advent in very different situations through Scripture reading, guest speakers, and interaction. Registration optional: [parkstreet.org/announcements](http://parkstreet.org/announcements).

### **Join us for Daily Advent Readings**

Daily Advent readings from Scripture allow us to journey through the Bible together as a body and will be available on the website ([parkstreet.org/advent](http://parkstreet.org/advent)), morning bulletin and Church Center app. If possible, we encourage you to use the app so you can engage with the discussion questions within your Regional Fellowships. To download the app, go to [parkstreet.org/ministries/psc-app](http://parkstreet.org/ministries/psc-app). For assistance, email us at: [app@parkstreet.org](mailto:app@parkstreet.org).

### **An Advent Call to All-Church Prayer and Fasting**

Advent is historically a time of prayer, fasting, and repentance as we prepare for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we near the close of a challenging year for our church, the elders and ministers are working with the All-Church Prayer Team to call the church to a season of prayer and fasting. There will be different ways to participate in this season of Advent prayer and fasting:

- 1) Seven days of evening prayer, starting with All-Church Prayer on Friday, Dec 1 (7:30 pm), followed by six days over Zoom, Dec 2–7 (7:30–8:00 pm).
- 2) We want to be a praying church and blanket each day with prayer and fasting. We will have a sign-up for time slots (8:00 am–8:00 pm) during Dec 2–Dec 24.

*See [parkstreet.org/announcements](http://parkstreet.org/announcements) for the Zoom links and the link to sign up for fasting.*

### **Blue Christmas | Mon, Dec 4 | 7:00–8:00 pm | Sanctuary**

A service that acknowledges suffering and offers hope, with music and the reading of a parable. Seekers welcome. Contact: [cmay@parkstreet.org](mailto:cmay@parkstreet.org).

### **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols | Sun, Dec 10 | 7:00 pm**

Music by choir and congregation, accompanied by orchestra.  
Register for childcare: [parkstreet.org/announcements](http://parkstreet.org/announcements).

### **Worship Service | Sun, Dec 24 | 11:00 am only**

Join us for our fourth Sunday of Advent service on Dec. 24 at 11:00 am; nursery and children's church will be available. Please note there will be no 8:30 am or 4:00 pm services. There will be three afternoon/evening Christmas Eve services (see next announcement).

### **Christmas Eve Services | Sun, Dec 24 | 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00 pm**

Candlelight services: 3:00 pm (a simple service with hymns and organ), 5:00 & 7:00 pm (music led by choir, brass and organ, also livestreamed: [parkstreet.org/live](https://parkstreet.org/live)). Please note: no nursery or children's church.

### **DivorceCare Surviving the Holidays | Sat, Dec 16 | 9:45AM | Park Street Church**

The holidays can be difficult when you are going through separation or divorce. Find hope and learn how to navigate the season. Register by emailing: [divorce-care@parkstreet.org](mailto:divorce-care@parkstreet.org).

### **December All-Church Prayer Schedule**

Sat, Dec 9 | 8:30-9:30 am | *Virtual Only via Zoom* | Missions Prayer

### **Walking Through Loss, Lament and Turmoil | Fri, Dec 15 | 7:00 pm | Sanctuary**

Join us for a conversation with Karen Mason, PhD, Professor of Counseling and Psychology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary for an informal space to listen, understand, and process some of the complexities of what we may experience through loss and turmoil from a biblical perspective.

### **Park Street's College Ministry House (Wilson House) Has a Room Opening**

Twenty-somethings with a heart for undergraduate ministry are encouraged to apply! Six volunteer hours per week are required. Email: [tmcleod@parkstreet.org](mailto:tmcleod@parkstreet.org).

### **Artists' Fellowship | Today | 1:00 pm | Upper Sky Room**

Visual artists, join us for a light lunch! Discussion will be based on readings and viewing artworks. For info, please email: [loistandersen@gmail.com](mailto:loistandersen@gmail.com)

### **Short-Term Mission Info Session | Tue, Dec 12 | 7:00 pm | Zoom**

Attend our Short-Term Mission (STM) info session to learn about our 2024 STMs. Consider serving alongside our missionaries and partners locally or globally to support their long-term work. All are welcome; no commitment required. Contact [missions@parkstreet.org](mailto:missions@parkstreet.org) for Zoom registration link.

### **Mission Conference 2023 Survey & Next Steps**

Thank you for participating in the Mission Conference. We hope you felt encouraged! Give feedback and learn about next steps at: [parkstreet.org/missions](https://parkstreet.org/missions).

### **Welcome to the Select Choir of Whitinsville Christian High School**

Stop by the Welcome Center to hear some seasonal music after the 8:30 am service.

## NEW?

Welcome to Park Street Church! We're glad you're here, and we invite you to become a part of this community of Jesus' disciples. Wherever you're coming from and whatever questions you are asking, we welcome you to join us as we seek to become more like Jesus.

Here are some specific steps you can take to connect:

- Fill out a **Connect card** in the pews and hand it to an usher or drop it in the offering plate. You can also visit [parkstreet.org](http://parkstreet.org) or scan the QR code to the right. We'll be in touch.
- Meet an elder or minister at the **Info Desk** in the Welcome Center (one floor below the sanctuary) and pick up a **Welcome booklet**.
- RSVP to the invitation you receive for the **Newcomers' Lunch** on a third Sunday of the month, where you can meet other newcomers and church leaders, hear about our community and ask questions. We look forward to knowing you better!

