



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

Isaiah 9:2

SERVICE *of* WORSHIP

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, December 10, 2023

The Second 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 picrow 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.*

The word Advent is 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.*

THE PRELUDE

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

March Upon Handel's "Lift Up Your Heads"

A. Guilmant (1837-1911)

INTROIT

(11 am)

O Antiphons II. O Adonai (World Premiere)

O Adonai: O Adonai and Leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the Law on Sinai:

Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

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 Psalm 120

Leader When I was in trouble I called upon the LORD, and he answered me.

People **Deliver us, O LORD.**

Leader My soul has long dwelt among those who are enemies of peace.
I labor for peace, but when I speak to them of it,
they make themselves ready for battle.

People **Deliver us, O LORD. Send us the Prince of Peace.**

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

PSALM 42



1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each
 3. Hark! the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
 dark mis - deed; all that well de - serv'd his an - ger
 far and near, call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance,
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load; speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 he will no more see nor heed. She has suf - fer'd man - y a day,
 since the king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign, for the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her
 now her griefs have passed a - way, God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way! Let the val - leys
 now o'er earth is shed a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
 see the to - ken that his Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann Olearius (1611-1684) trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music: Psalm 42 | Genevan Psalter, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois

The Genevan Psalter was created to support worship as led by John Calvin: the 150 psalms were sung in unison, without accompaniment. Most well-known is the tune for psalm 100 (our Doxology tune). -NS

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)

Christ is the Morning Star

*Christ is the morning star,
the light of God that shines from afar;
the Son of God in human form revealed,
the wound of Adam's sin for ever healed.*

For God, who formed mankind of clay
will bring forth our salvation that day
when he, who made all things since time began,
will send his Son, to live on earth as man.

And when he comes, a child on earth,
the sun and stars will shine at his birth,
to light a world that long in darkness lay:
the light of God, the gift of Christmas Day.

Christ is the morning star...

And when he comes again as King,
 then heaven and all creation shall sing;
 with saints in glory seated round his throne
 we'll see his face, and know as we are known.

Christ is the morning star...

Words and music: 2014 | John Rutter (b. 1945)

The title line is taken from the Venerable Bede: *Christus est stella matutina*

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THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 9:12–24

per Bible p. 637

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.*

Blessed Be the God of Israel

FOREST GREEN

1. "Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2. "With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3. "My child, as proph-et of the Lord, you will pre-prepare his way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell his peo-ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
 that we might wor-ship with-out fear and of-fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer-cy from on high shine forth and nev-er cease

God would turn back our en-e-mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho-li-ness and right-eous-ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a-way the gloom of death and lead us in-to peace.”

Words: adapted from the *Benedictus* (Luke 1: 68-79), 1989 | Carl P. Daw (b. 1944)

Music: *Forest Green*, English folk tune adapted 1906 | Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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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 № 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 Man of the Cross

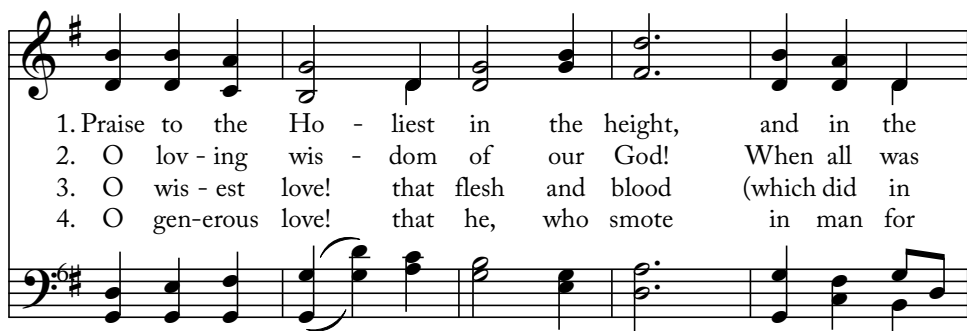
Mark Booker

HYMN

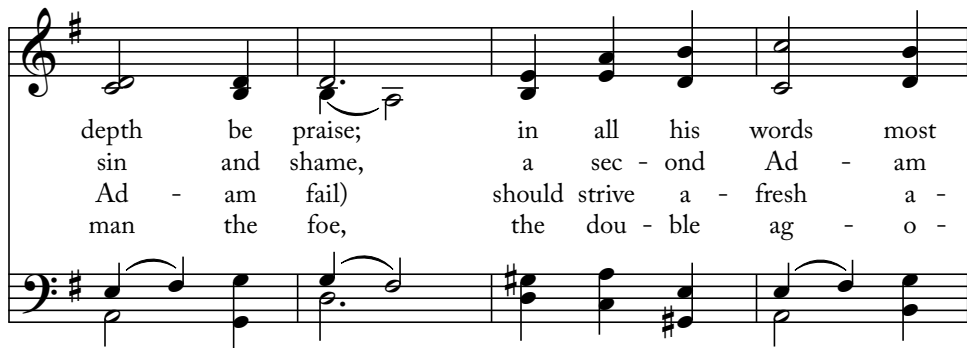
♩ *The People stand.*

Praise to the Holiest in the Height

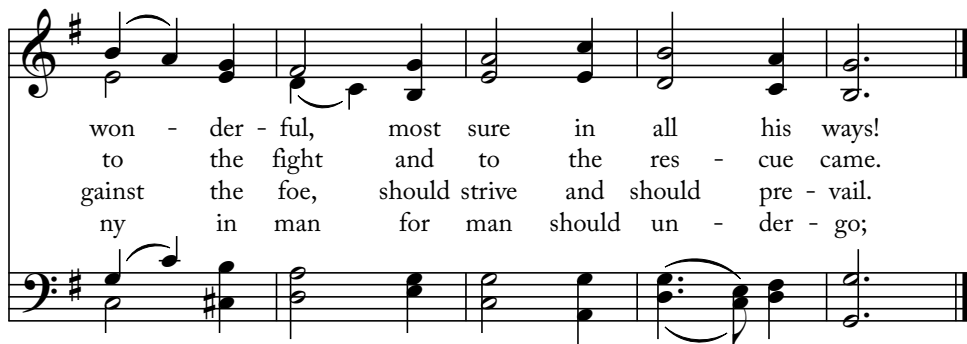
GERONTIUS



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



depth be praise; in all his words most
 sin and shame, a sec - ond Ad - am
 Ad - am fail) should strive a - fresh a -
 man the foe, the dou - ble ag - o -



won - der - ful, most sure in all his ways!
 to the fight and to the res - cue came.
 gainst the foe, should strive and should pre - vail.
 ny in man for man should un - der - go;

6. and in the garden secretly,
 and on the Cross on high,
 should teach his brethren, and inspire
 to suffer and to die.

7. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
 and in the depth be praise:
 in all his words most wonderful,
 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 PRAYERS

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

OFFERTORY

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

Recitative & Aria *from Messiah*

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name
Emmanuel: God with us.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
get thee up into the high mountain;

O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up thy voice with strength;

lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah:

Behold your God! Arise, shine, or thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Words: Isaiah 7:14; 40:9; 60:1 | Music: G. F. Handel (1685–1759)

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.**

HYMN

N^o 198 Lift Up Your Heads

TRURO

BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

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

SERVICE LEADERS AND PARTICIPANT

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*

ASSISTING MINISTER Adam Herndon, *Minister to Families*

ELDER 8:30 Geoffrey Raux

11:00 Mary Harvey

LAY READERS 8:30 Elizabeth Lohnes

11:00 Richard Ibekwe

ADVENT WREATH 8:30 The Polaski Family

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

Marana Avant, *mezzo soprano*

Clayton Hancock, *violin*

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

COLLECTIVE PRAYERS

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” Mark 1:3

Let us pray together...

- That God would reveal to each of us, and to our community as a whole, our sin and that he would help us to repent and turn to him.
- That God would guide us, the lowly and the common people, in how we can work with him to make his kingdom real on the earth.
- That God would guide our society as we continue to grapple with the proper use of technology.
- That we would allow the gospel to liberate us from the need to pursue glory, praise, status or honor from the world.

Send your prayer requests to 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 here (and also on our website at parkstreet.org/advent).

Advent Day 8 | Sun, Dec 10 | Psalm 85 | Isaiah 40:1-11

So many comforting images...pick two favorites and tell us why you are drawn to them. There's contrast here, too. What do you notice? You might want to listen to this part of Handel's Messiah and rejoice!

Advent Day 9 | Mon, Dec 11 | Psalm 24 | Matthew 3:1-10

What type of hero is the Lord looking for? Those who are smart, beautiful, together, sleek, strong? How does Psalm 24 inform us? How do we recognize the Lord's voice? Is it from those who have official roles and status? What does Matthew 3 tell us about unlikely sources of the voice of God and our ability to hear?

Advent Day 10 | Tue, Dec 12 | Psalm 63 | Hebrews 3:7-9

Psalm 16 describes a deep longing coupled with a firm confidence in the Lord. In what way are these two things both components of hope? What are some of the tangible ways David expresses his hope in God?

Hebrews 3:7-19 contains an exhortation against the hardening deceitfulness of sin. What is the ultimate result of this hardening according to the passage? Where have you felt the hardening effects of sin in your own life recently?

Advent Day 11 | Wed, Dec 13 | Psalm 6 | Isaiah 42:18-25

In this psalm and short passage from Isaiah, we see Israel's cycle of failure, rebuke from the Lord, confession, and forgiveness. How is seeing the examples here encouraging? How does it warn us? What do you make of the juxtaposition of the Lord calling Israel his "dedicated one" in the same breath as he calls Israel blind?

Advent Day 12 | Thu, Dec 14 | Psalm 67 | Isaiah 45:14-25

This is a passage of contrasts. What do you notice? Try to put in a sentence or two what the LORD is saying about himself.

Advent Day 13 | Fri, Dec 15 | Psalm 61 | 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Our ability to see is because of God's light, which overcomes and shines "out of darkness." Within our hearts, it allows us to know him, to proclaim not our own truth, but his truth that Christ is Lord. During this Advent season, how might we take refuge in God, so that the darkness of the times or of our own hearts might not impair our ability to see? How might we allow God to remove the veil that so often impairs our vision?

Advent Day 14 | Sat, Dec 16 | Psalm 62 | 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

These passages firmly affix this life's suffering and trial with belief and trust (or hope) in God's saving power. What is the connection between suffering and hope? How does suffering refine and strengthen hope? In what ways can suffering threaten or undermine our hope, and how can we prevent that?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates

Sun, Dec 10 | 7:00 pm | A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Sun, Dec 24 | 11:00 am | Fourth Sunday of Advent Service
Sun, Dec 24 | 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00 pm | Christmas Eve Services
Sun, Dec 31 | 11:00 am | Morning Service Only
Sun, Feb 25 | Time TBA | Annual Meeting

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols | Tonight | 7:00 pm

Music by choir and congregation, accompanied by orchestra. Seating is limited; please arrive early.

Join us for our Second Sunday Meal | Today | 9:45 am, 12:30 pm & 5:30 pm

Advent Around the World | Sun, Dec 10 & 17 | 9:45 am & 5:30 pm | *Granary Room*

Learn how Christians engage with Advent from a global perspective.

Join us for Daily Advent Readings

Online: parkstreet.org/advent, in the bulletin and on the Church Center app: parkstreet.org/ministries/psc-app. For assistance: app@parkstreet.org.

An Advent Call to All-Church Prayer and Fasting

Sign up for a time to pray for our church at: parkstreet.org/announcements.

Family Ministry's Christmas Extravaganza | Fri, Dec 15 | 7:00–9:00 pm | *PSC*

Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service | Sun, Dec 24 | 11:00 am only

Nursery and children's church will be available.

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

Candlelight services: 3 pm (a simple service with hymns and organ), 5 pm & 7 pm (choir, brass and organ, also live-streamed: parkstreet.org/live). No childcare. Receptions after 3 & 5 services. Bring your best baked good, dessert or finger food.

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

All are welcome; no commitment required. For Zoom link: missions@parkstreet.org.

Walking Through Loss, Lament and Turmoil | Fri, Dec 15 | 7:00 pm | *Welcome C.*

Join us for a conversation with Karen Mason about listening, understanding, and processing loss and turmoil from a biblical perspective.

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

Find hope and learn how to navigate the season. Register: divorcecare@parkstreet.org.

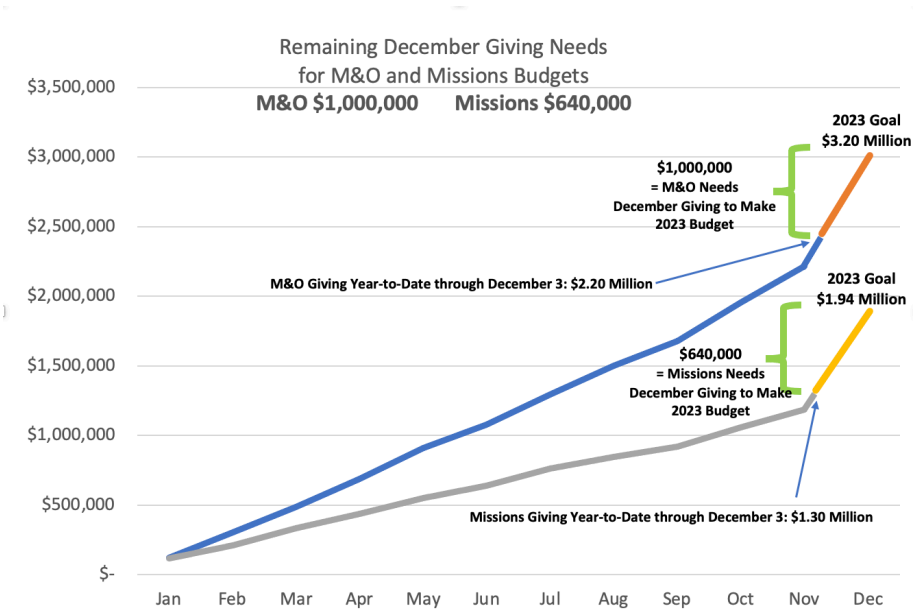
Room Opening at PSC's College Ministry House (Wilson House) | tmcleod@parkstreet.org

Mark Your Calendar for the 2024 Annual Meeting | Sun, Feb 25 | *PSC*

FINANCIAL UPDATE

During the last weeks of December our congregation's M&O and Missions giving is hoped to be \$1,000,000 for M&O and \$640,000 for Missions. While the remaining need may seem daunting, especially if you are new to Park Street, take heart. It is typical for 30% or more of the annual budgets to be funded by gifts given in the month of December. The accompanying chart illustrates the situation.

Please pray, remembering that each of us should give as we are able, and that God loves a cheerful giver. Please remember that gifts intended for Missions must be specifically designated as such.



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 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!

