

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

*Isaiah 9:2*

SERVICE *of* WORSHIP

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, December 17, 2023

*The Third 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.*

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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.*

### INTROIT (II am)

*O Antiphons III. O Radix (World Premiere)*

*O Radix:* O Root of Jesse,  
which stands as a sign among the people,  
before whom kings will fall silent,  
unto whom the nations will make their prayers, ah!  
Come and deliver us; tarry not; delay no longer.

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 Isaiah 12*

*Leader* The LORD is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.

*People* **Therefore we shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation.**

*Leader* Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his name.

*People* **Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

HYMN

Sleepers, Wake

WACHET AUF



1. "Sleep-ers, wake!" A voice a-stounds us, the shout of ram-part -  
 2. Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing; her heart with joy - ful  
 3. Lamb of God, the heav'ns a - dore you; let saints and an - gels



guards sur - rounds us: "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
 hope is spring - ing, she wakes and hur - ries through the night.  
 sing be - fore\_ you, as harps and cym - bals swell the sound.



Mid - night's peace their cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons  
 Forth he comes, her Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in  
 Twelve great pearls, the ci - ty's por - tals: Through them we stream to



clear - ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
 truth vic - to - rious her star is risen, her light grows bright.  
 join the im - mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.



Rise up, and give us light; the Bride-groom is in sight. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate Word, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de - light: Al - le - lu - ia!



Your lamps pre - pare and has - ten there, that you the wedding feast may share."  
 We fol - low all and heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.  
 There - fore we sing to greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Words: 1597 | Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)  
 trans. 1982 | Carl P. Daw (b. 1944)  
 Music: *Wachet Auf*, 1597 | Philipp Nicolai  
 harm. 1731 | J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
 Words 1982, Hope Publishing Company.  
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## 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)

Hurry to Bethlehem

*Hurry! Hurry! Hurry to Bethlehem!*

*Run to the stable to see the baby boy!*

Come with me to the manger to see the infant King.

Bring your gifts on bended knee.

Together let us sing.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

*Glory to God in the highest!*

Hurry, hurry, hurry, run to the stable,

Quickly come run with me!

Words & Music: Allen Pote (b. 1945)

# THE FIRST LESSON

*Exodus 4:10-17*

*pew Bible p. 47*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## H Y M N

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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2. Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee whose

1. noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake, and heark - en,  
2. straight the way for God with - in; and let each heart pre -  
3. ref - uge, and our great re - ward. With - out thy grace we  
4. bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
5. ad - vent sets thy peo - ple free, whom, with the Fa - ther,

1. for he brings glad tid - ings from the King of kings!  
 2. pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3. waste a - way, like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4. light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5. we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winifred Douglas (1867-1944)  
 after John Chandler (1806-1876)  
 Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690  
 harm. W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

♩ *The People sit.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

*I Corinthians 2:1-5*

*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 Proclamation of the Cross

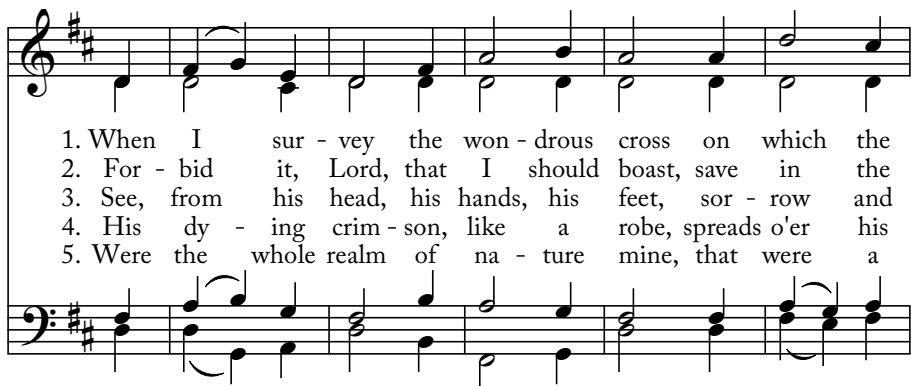
Mark Booker

## HYMN

 *The People stand.*

### When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

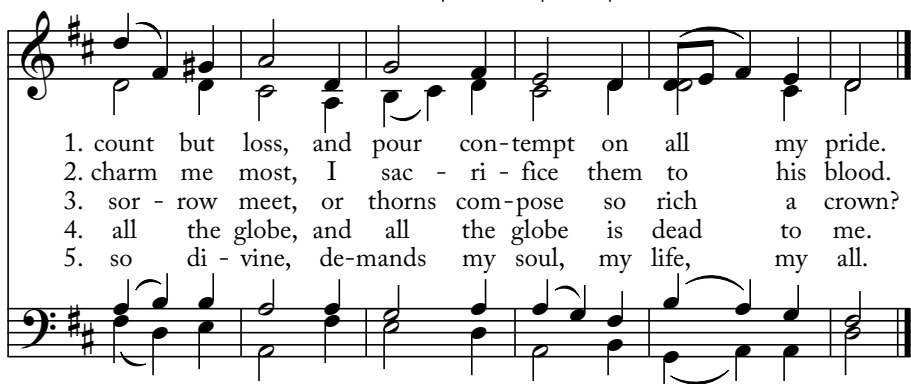
ROCKINGHAM



1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4. His dy - ing crim - son, like a robe, spreads o'er his  
 5. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



1. Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 2. death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 3. love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and  
 4. bod - y on the tree; then am I dead to  
 5. pres - ent far too small: love so a - maz - ing,



1. count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 2. charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 3. sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 4. all the globe, and all the globe is dead to me.  
 5. so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: 1707, rev. 1709 | Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: *Rockingham*, 1790 | Edward Miller (1731-1807) LM



## 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

(11 am, for 8:30 am see pg. 5)

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

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night, thy peoples' everlasting light,  
Jesu, redeemer, save us all and hear thy servants when they call.

Thou camest bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eveningtide,  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine, the son of man yet all divine.

At thy great name, exalted, now, all knees must bend,  
All hearts must bow, and things in heaven and earth shall own  
That thou art Lord and King alone.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one,  
laud, honour, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

Words: J. M. Neale (1818-1866) | Music: Malcom Archer (b. 1952)

### 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

Nº 196 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

## BENEDICTION

### THE POSTLUDE

Overture to *Paulus* “Sleepers, Wake!”

F. Mendelssohn (1809-1837)

Mendelssohn’s oratorio on the life of St. Paul begins with a grand setting of the hymn “Sleepers, Wake!” God’s conversion of Paul (formerly Saul, persecutor of the Church) was iconic of the awakening of the whole world from spiritual death to life. Through this man (who had been an enemy of God but was made *Apostle to the Gentiles*) all the nations were called to wake up to life as we await Christ’s return.

The opening tune, noble-but-muted, evokes an expectant waiting (God’s promises are sure; yet the world was in slumber and darkness). A minor-key fugue follows, with the “Sleepers Wake” theme interjecting in ever more insistent calls to “Wake up!” Finally, the tune returns in the major key and in triumph, for “now is the day of salvation.”

*“Sleepers, wake!”*

*“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”*

*“The time has come, O maidens wise!”*

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

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## SERVICE LEADERS AND PARTICIPANT

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*

ASSISTING MINISTER Damian Long, *Minister to Small Groups & Young Adults*

ELDER 8:30 Linda Herman

11:00 John Liu

LAY READERS 8:30 Margaret Diffenderfer

11:00 Jill Vanderwoude

ADVENT WREATH 8:30 The Ellis Family

11:00 The Foushée Family

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

Children's Choir; Christine Vasko, *Director*

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

*“They ought always to pray and not lose heart...And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” Luke 18:1-8*

### Let us pray together...

- That through repentance we would bear the fruit of God’s kingdom.
- For those around the world who are in distress: that the Lord would answer them and set them free.
- For those around the world that feel they are secure: that any foundation other than Jesus would be revealed to be insufficient, and that they (we all) would recognize him as the foundation of reality.
- For the City of Boston: that Mayor Michelle Wu and other leaders would see the true needs of the city and act to bring health and wholeness to our neighbors.
- For the elderly and homebound in our community: that they would be surrounded and supported by our church family.

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

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## 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](http://parkstreet.org/advent)).*

### Week Three

#### **Advent Day 15 | Sun, Dec 17 | Psalm 126 | John 3:22-30**

Today's readings feature imagery of water in the desert, and surprising turns from tears to joy. In what ways, large or small, have you experienced God's surprising goodness? When you think of Jesus coming to the wedding celebration as the bridegroom, what does that joyful scene look like to you?

#### **Advent Day 16 | Mon, Dec 18 | Psalm 107 | 2 Corinthians 1:3-11**

Ponder the tapestry of comfort, affliction and suffering Paul is weaving here. How do you respond? Paul and his companions were brought to the point of death by their afflictions. What was the result? Does this passage give you hope in the midst of your own sufferings? In what ways?

#### **Advent Day 18 | Wed, Dec 20 | Psalm 47 | Isaiah 2:1-5**

How do Psalm 47 and Isaiah 2:1-5 describe God's kingship and reign? What parts of these passages strike you as especially beautiful? How often do you think about and hope in the reality of this future?

#### **Advent Day 19 | Thu, Dec 21 | Psalm 124 | Luke 1:26-38**

When the angel tells Mary that she is going to bear the Son of God, the great rescue depicted in Psalm 124 begins for all of God's people. What is surprising about the way that this great rescue is initiated? Knowing the rest of the story, what is surprising about how it is carried out, and how God is still carrying it out through Jesus today?

#### **Advent Day 20 | Fri, Dec 22 | Psalm 135 | Luke 1:46-55**

Self-confessed lowly Mary has been chosen to introduce the upside-down kingdom that will finally set the world right side up. What surprises do you find? What is different here from the way the world does things? What brings you joy from these words?

#### **Advent Day 21 | Sat, Dec 23 | Psalm 150 | Luke 1:67-79**

Zechariah's song highlights the faithfulness of God. How does Zechariah express this? Further, God's faithful action in the birth of John and Jesus is attributed to his "tender mercy" (v78). How have we known this tender mercy in our life together? How have you known this in your own life? Does this fuel your/our praise?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Important Dates*

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

**Advent Around the World | Today | 9:45 am & 5:30 pm | *Granary Room***  
Learn how Christians engage with Advent from a global perspective.

**Reception | Today | 12:45 pm | *Terrace Room***

Join us for a visit with the Bucklands for an update on their family and ministry.

**New Members Class | Sundays Jan 21, 28, & Feb 4 | 12:30-4:00 pm**

Join us three Sundays in a row for lunch and an exploration of the community life, theological convictions, and unique priorities of Park Street Church. There is no pressure to become a member upon completion. Registration deadline: Jan 16 [parkstreet.org/events](https://parkstreet.org/events).

**Join us for Daily Advent Readings**

Online: [parkstreet.org/advent](https://parkstreet.org/advent), in the bulletin and on the Church Center app: [parkstreet.org/ministries/psc-app](https://parkstreet.org/ministries/psc-app). For assistance: [app@parkstreet.org](mailto: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](https://parkstreet.org/announcements).

**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](https://parkstreet.org/live)). No childcare. Receptions after 3 & 5 pm services. Bring your best baked good, dessert or finger food.

**Room Opening at PSC's College Ministry House | [tmcleod@parkstreet.org](mailto:tmcleod@parkstreet.org)**

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

**Nursery Team Members Needed | [sverrengia@parkstreet.org](mailto:sverrengia@parkstreet.org)**

Serve children (ages 0-3) once a month during one of the services.

**Download the new Park Street Sermons App at [parkstreet.org/announcements](https://parkstreet.org/announcements)**

Includes sermons from a 1934 sermon by A.Z. Conrad all the way up to the present day.

## 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](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!

