



Lo, the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

Flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come.

SERVICE *of* WORSHIP
Park Street Church
The Lord's Day, May 12, 2024
Sunday After The Ascension

Welcome to Park Street Church! We're glad you're worshipping 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.*

Today we join the Christian family around the globe in celebrating the ascension of Jesus Christ to his glorious throne, forty days after Easter (last Thursday, but often observed on Sunday).

THE PRELUDE

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

Flourish for an Occasion

W. Harris (1883-1973)

INTROIT (II am)

Come, let us with our Lord arise,
our Lord, who made both earth and skies;
who died to save the world he made,
and rose triumphant from the dead.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) | Music: J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

☞ *Immediately after the introit, the People stand.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 12

Leader Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader O clap your hands together, all you peoples;
O cry aloud unto God with shouts of joy.

People **For the Lord Most High is to be feared,
he is the great King over all the earth.**

Leader God has gone up with a triumphant shout,
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

People O sing praises, sing praises unto our God;
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

Leader For God is the King of all the earth;
think upon his mighty acts and praise him with a song.

HYMN

N^o 295 Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, & 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

(11 am)

The Ascension

Lift up your heads, great gates, and sing,
now glory comes, and glory's King;
now by your high all-golden way
the fairer heaven comes home today.

Hark! now the gates are ope, and hear
 the tune of each triumphant sphere;†
 where every angel as he sings
 keeps time with his applauding wings,
 And makes heaven's loftiest roof rebound
 the echoes of the noble sound.

†refers to the “music of the spheres,” that is, the ancient concept of the harmonized movements of the celestial bodies as a sort of “music”—music that certainly would hail King Jesus’ ascension to his throne at the right hand of the Father.

Words: Joseph Beaumont (1616-1699) | Music: Philp Moore (b. 1943)

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

pew Bible p. 909

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.*

See the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph

RUSTINGTON

1. See, the con - qu'ror mounts in tri - umph; see the King in roy - al state,
 2. Who is this that comes in glo - ry with the trump of ju - bi - lee?
 3. While he lifts his hands in bless - ing, he is part - ed from his friends;
 4. Now our heav'n - ly Aar - on en - ters, with his blood, with - in the veil;

rid - ing on the clouds, his char - iot, to his heav'n - ly pal - ace gate.
 Lord of bat - tles, God of ar - mies, he has gained the vic - to - ry.
 while their ea - ger eyes be - hold him, he up - on the clouds as - cends.
 Josh - ua now is come to Ca - naan, and the kings be - fore him quail;

Hark! the choirs of an-gel voic-es joy-ful al-le-lu-ias sing,
 He who on the cross did suf-fer, he who from the grave a-rose:
 He who walked with God and pleased him, preach-ing truth and doom to come,
 now he plants the tribes of Is-rael in their prom-ised rest-ing place:

and the por-tals high are lift-ed to re-ceive their heav'n-ly king.
 he has van-quished sin and Sa-tan; he by death has spoiled his foes.
 he, our E-noch, is trans-lat-ed to his ev-er-last-ing home.
 Now our great E-li-jah of-fers dou-ble por-tion of his grace.

5. You have raised our human nature in the clouds to God's right hand;
 there we sit in heav'nly places, there with you in glory stand:
 Jesus reigns, adored by angels, man with God is on the throne;
 mighty Lord, in your ascension we by faith behold our own.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)
 Music: Rustington | C. Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

♩ *The People sit.*

THE SECOND LESSON

John 2:1-11

perw Bible p. 887

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 Wine and the Wedding Ronnie Collier Stevens

HYMN

¶ *The People stand.*

Nº 299 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight is Glorious

CORONÆ

¶ *The People sit.*

CONFIRMATION

The Charge to Candidates

We rejoice that you all now desire publicly to confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, and your commitment to follow him as Lord. In Baptism, you were joined to Christ, and made members of his church. In the community of the people of God, you have learned of God's purpose for you and for all creation. You have been nurtured at the table of our Lord, and called to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians,

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Eph. 2:19-22

Profession of the One Faith

¶ *The Minister examines all the Candidates, saying*

Question Do you, here in the sight of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism?

Answer I do.

Question Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer I do.

Question Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

Answer I will, with the Lord's help.

¶ *The People stand. The Minister asks them*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

People **We will.**

¶ *The Minister continues*

Will you serve alongside them and encourage them as fellow members of the family of faith, as they seek to grow into Christ's likeness?

People **We will.**

¶ *The Minister then says*

Let us join with these Candidates to proclaim our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Minister Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

People I do. I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Minister Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

People I do. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He 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.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Minister Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People I do. 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 Confirmation

Gracious God, by water and the Spirit you claimed us as your own, cleansing us from sin, and giving us new life. You made us members of your body, the Church, calling us to be your servants in the world; renew in these students the covenant you made in their baptism. Continue the good work you have begun in them. Send them forth in the power of your Holy Spirit to love and serve you with joy, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ *The Minister continues to pray for the needs of the world, church, sick, and suffering.*

OFFERTORY

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

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 310 Rejoice, the Lord is King

DARWALL

BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Crown Imperial (*Coronation March, 1937*)

William Walton (1902–1983)

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

SERVICE LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

	Mark Booker, <i>Senior Minister</i>
	Nathan Skinner, <i>Director of Music</i>
GUEST PREACHER	Ronnie Collier Stevens
ASSISTING MINISTER	Leonard Mosiah, <i>Minister to Youth</i>
ELDERS	8:30 Joshua Wang 11:00 Geoffrey Raux
LAY READERS	8:30 Michael Ahearn 11:00 Josephine Ziegler
MUSICIANS	The Sanctuary Choir; Daniel Schmunk, <i>Director of Choral Music</i> Clayton Hancock & William Kinney, <i>violin</i>
CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION	Zachary Beaver, Carolyn Chen, John Kim, Grant Lewis, Tristan van der Meer, Cora Murgatroyd, Brooke Robert, Samuel West

COLLECTIVE PRAYERS

“So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But 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.’” Acts 1:6-8

Let us come to the Lord together ...

- That the Lord would empower us, through the Holy Spirit and alongside our sister churches, to be Jesus’ witnesses in Boston.
- For peace in the world, especially that the war in the Middle East would not escalate.
- For the cohort that just finished the nine-month Pathways program here at Park Street, that they would continue to seek and sense God’s leading in regard to his global plan.
- For the youth who have been confirmed this Sunday, may they be protected from the evil one and his schemes, and that the gifts God has granted them would be used for his glory in the church.

Send your prayer requests to pastoralcare@parkstreet.org or call 617-523-3383.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Opportunities at Park Street Church

Park Street Church is posting the following staff positions to be filled: Director of Facilities, Director of Communications, Facilities Technician, Ministries Administrator, as well as the role of Administration, Communications, and Finance Coordinator. See parkstreet.org/jobs for all job descriptions. If interested, please reach out to Mike Ahearn at mahearn@parkstreet.org.

Baking & Hospitality Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up, and bake for coffee time after all three services starting this fall. Contact Randall at rwetzig@parkstreet.org if interested.

Volunteer English Teachers Needed

Please consider joining our team of ESL volunteers from Thu, May 16 through Thu, Aug 15. Training is available. Contact our ESL Coordinator, Karen, at kpat-schke@parkstreet.org. Visit parkstreet.org/esl to learn more.

Boston Fellows Program | Sep 2024–May 2025

Boston Fellows is a nine-month program that helps early to mid-career professionals cultivate the insights and spiritual habits necessary for meaningful vocation. For more info and to apply, visit bostonfellows.com. Apply by Jun 15 for \$100 off.

ABOUT THIS WEEK'S GUEST PREACHER

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Ronnie Collier Stevens is an Associate Pastor of Harvest Church Memphis. After helping to plant churches in Munich and Moscow, he was the Senior Pastor of Danube International Church in Budapest for many years. Ronnie and his wife Jane currently live in Germantown, Tennessee.

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!

