



*O house  
of Jacob,  
come,  
let us walk in the light  
of the  
Lord.*

SERVICE of HOLY COMMUNION

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, December 1, 2024

*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).*

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## THE PRELUDE

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

## INTROIT

(II AM)

*O Antiphons* III. O Radix

*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)

Commissioned by Park Street Church in honor of long-time choir member Michael Brescia.

## 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

### 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 & 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

ANTHEM

(II AM)

Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady," *Gloria!*

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady," *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favored lady, *Gloria!*

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born  
 in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
 and Christian folk throughout the world  
 will ever say— “Most highly favored lady,” *Gloria!*

Words & Music: Basque carol, based on Luke 1:26–38, 46 | arr. 2000, Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Zechariah 4*

*pew Bible p. 794*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

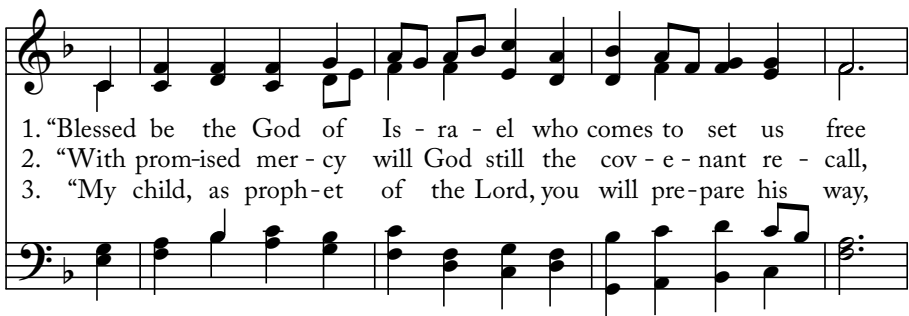
*People* Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

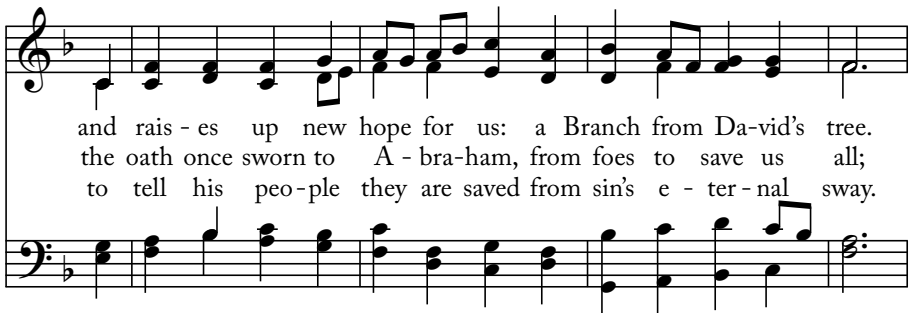
¶ *A Minister prays for the Children. The People stand.*

Blessed Be the God of Israel

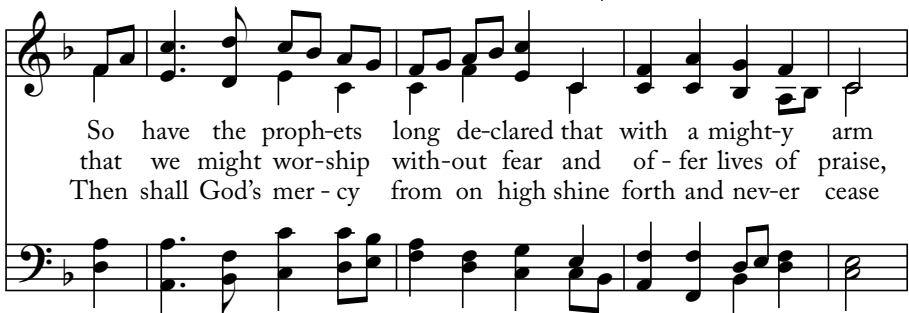
FOREST GREEN



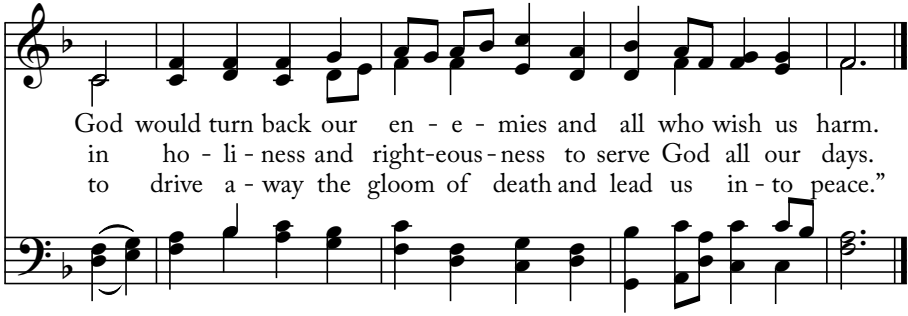
1. “Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
 2. “With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
 3. “My child, as proph-et of the Lord, you will pre-prepare his way,



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)  
 Words © Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted under One License no. A-721487

☪ *The People sit.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Revelation 11:1-18*

*per Bible p. 1034*

*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 Two Witnesses

Mark Booker

## HYMN

☪ *The People stand.*

№ 241 Thou Dost Reign On High

MARGARET

## 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.

#### 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.*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (*see hymn 193*)

#### 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

PICARDY

Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth

PUER NOBIS

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.

Words: *Veni, Redemptor Genium*, c. 397 | St. Ambrose of Milan (c. 340-397), trans. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)  
 Music: *Puer Nobis*, 15th cent, adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), arr. George Woodward (1848-1934)

¶ *After Communion, the People stand.*

## HYMN

Nº 198 Lift Up Your Heads , Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

## BENEDICTION

## THE POSTLUDE

¶ *The People may sit or leave quietly during the postlude. Please be respectful of those listening to the music in the sanctuary or via the livestream.*

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. Pachelbel (1653-1706)

*To mark the occasion of a new Church year (see p. 2), three bells are rung at the conclusion of the service, constituting a "Gloria" peal (their specific pitches begin the traditional melody for the Gloria in Excelsis).*

## SERVICE LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*

ASSISTING MINISTERS Leonard Mosiah, *Minister to Youth*  
Adam Herndon, *Minister to Families*

ELDERS 8:30 Stephen James Weibley  
11:00 Andrew Ziegler

LAY READERS 8:30 Mike Ahearn  
11:00 Jill VanderWoude

ADVENT WREATH 8:30 The Verrengia Family  
11:00 The Gabrielse-Lowry Family

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

*Staff directory: [parkstreet.org/about-us/staff](http://parkstreet.org/about-us/staff)*

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## COLLECTIVE PRAYERS

*“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.” Colossians 4:2*

### Let us pray together...

- Thanking the Lord for the many ways he has blessed each of us, but particularly that, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- For those without homes living around our church and in Boston as the weather gets colder, that God would provide shelter and warmth, and would bring healing where it is needed.
- That as we enter into the season of Advent, God would guide us into the ways he has for us to grow as disciples of Jesus who proclaim him in both word and deed.

*Submit prayer requests to: [parkstreet.org/requestprayer](http://parkstreet.org/requestprayer) (or call 617-523-3383)*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Important Dates*

Tue, Dec 10 | 7:00 pm | Blue Christmas  
Sun, Dec 15 | 7:00 pm | A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols  
Sat, Dec 24 | 5:00 & 7:00 pm | Christmas Eve Services (*identical*)  
Sun, Dec 29 | 11:00 am | Worship service (*only one service this day*)

#### **Blue Christmas**

**Tue, Dec 10 | 7 pm**

Blue Christmas is a service that acknowledges suffering and offers hope. We enjoy jazz music, we sing together, we hear the parable *Ragman* instead of a sermon and there's no offering collected. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Chris May at [cmay@parkstreet.org](mailto:cmay@parkstreet.org).

#### **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols | Sun, Dec 15 | 7 pm**

Our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols retells the story of humanity's redemption in scripture and song, from the fall of man to the birth of the Messiah. The service includes music by the Sanctuary Choir and Park Street Orchestra, as well as hymns sung by the congregation. Seating for this service will be limited to sanctuary capacity. We suggest arriving early to ensure finding a seat. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Register for childcare: [parkstreet.org/announcements](https://parkstreet.org/announcements).

#### **Annual Meeting 2025**

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23.

*More information:* [parkstreet.org/announcements](https://parkstreet.org/announcements)

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*Jesus Above All*

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## 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** at 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**, where you can meet other newcomers and church leaders, hear about our community and ask questions. We look forward to knowing you better!

