



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

SERVICE *of* WORSHIP

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, December 22, 2024

11 am

The Fourth 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*

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.

THE PRELUDE

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

INTROIT

Christmas is Here, Sing Noel

Christmas is here, sing noel.

Jesus is born, the infant King.

Lift up your voice in joyful praise, clap your hands and sing.

Angels announce the Savior's birth:

"Glory to God in the highest, peace to all the earth."

See baby Jesus lying in a manger. This tiny child is God's own Son.

Jesus is the greatest gift of all: God's gift of love to everyone.

Clap your hands and sing.

Celebrate the birthday of the King!

Words & Music: 2006, Cindy Berry

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

from 1 John 4

Leader Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

People Whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

Leader In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through him.

People This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins.
Let us worship the God of Love!

HYMN

Nº 196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

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

ANTHEM

O Antiphons VII. O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel. God is with us.
Emmanuel, our King and Law-giver,
Desire of all nations and their salvation:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Words: Traditional | Music: 2022, Carol Barnett (b. 1949) commissioned by Park Street Church

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 15:1-18

pew Bible p. 57

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.*

Nº 322 O Quickly Come, Dread Judge of All

MELITA

¶ *The People sit.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 14:1-15:4

pew Bible p. 1036

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 Harvest

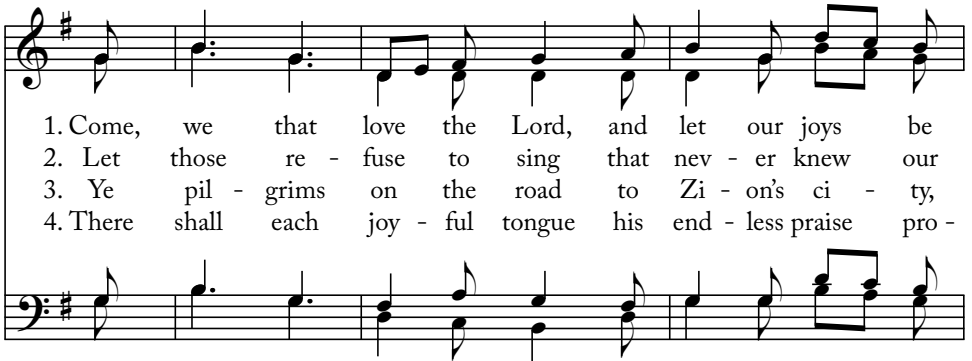
Mark Booker

HYMN

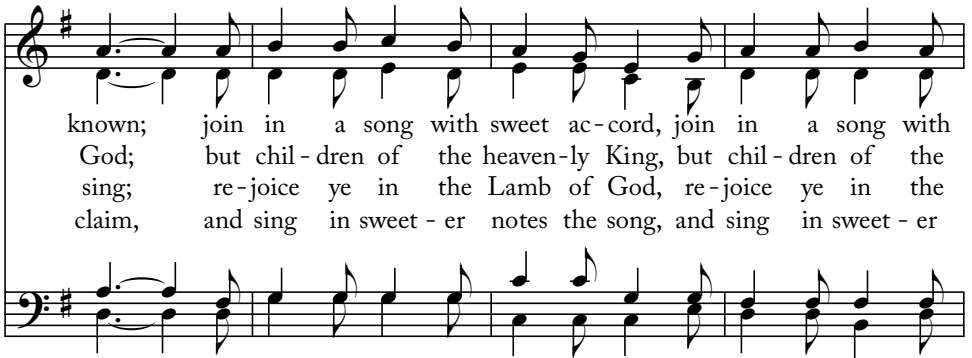
The People stand.

Come We That Love the Lord

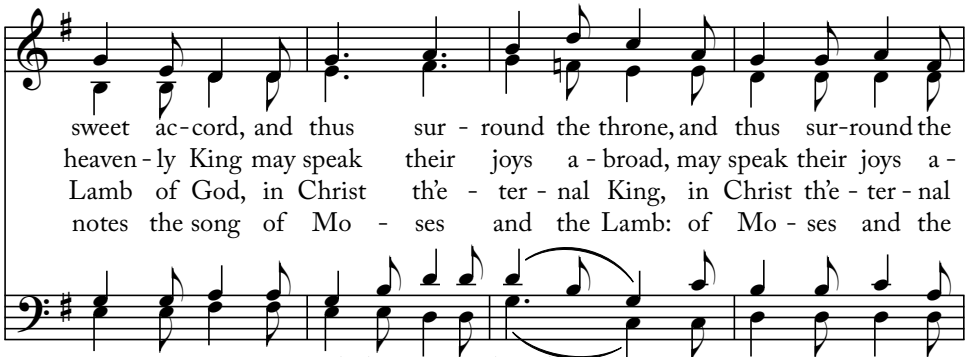
MARCHING TO ZION



1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be
 2. Let those re - fuse to sing that nev - er knew our
 3. Ye pil - grims on the road to Zi - on's ci - ty,
 4. There shall each joy - ful tongue his end - less praise pro -



known; join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 God; but chil - dren of the heav - en - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 sing; re - joice ye in the Lamb of God, re - joice ye in the
 claim, and sing in sweet - er notes the song, and sing in sweet - er



sweet ac - cord, and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the
 heav - en - ly King may speak their joys a - broad, may speak their joys a -
 Lamb of God, in Christ th'e - ter - nal King, in Christ th'e - ter - nal
 notes the song of Mo - ses and the Lamb: of Mo - ses and the

2. may speak their joys a - broad.
 3. in Christ th'e - ter - nal King:

throne.
broad.
King:
Lamb:

We're march-ing to Zi-on, beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful

(We're march-ing to)

We're march-ing to Zi-on, we're march-ing to

Zi-on. We're march-ing up-ward to Zi-on, the beau-ti-ful ci-ty of God.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) & William Hammond (1719-1783) | Music: 1867 | Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Exhortation

Profession of the One Faith

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.*

Minister 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 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.

Prayer for the Candidates

¶ *The Minister prays, concluding with*

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

¶ *The People sit.*

The Baptism

____, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

____, do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, to fight bravely under his banner against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and to continue as his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your days. **Amen.**

The Presentation

THE PRAYERS

¶ *After the candidates have been presented, the Minister leads the People in prayer, the People kneeling or sitting.*

OFFERTORY

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

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,[†]
to call my true love to my dance;

*Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love,
this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance
thus was I knit to man's nature
to call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
so very poor, this was my chance
between an ox and a silly poor ass
to call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance.

[†] *legend of my play*: story of salvation

my true love: the Church

my dance: life in Christ; salvation

Words & Music: English folk carol

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 194 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

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.*

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 Advent hymn “Sleepers, Wake!” God’s conversion of Paul (formerly Saul, persecutor of the Church) was uniquely consequential and glorious, iconic of the awakening of the whole world from spiritual death unto life, because 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!”

SERVICE LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music*

ASSISTING MINISTER Randall Wetzig, *Assistant Minister*

ELDERS 8:30 Linda Herman
 11:00 Richard Ibekwe

LAY READERS 8:30 Margaret Diffenderfer
 11:00 Alex Ichimura

ADVENT WREATH 8:30 The Kiemele Family
 11:00 The Hutter Family

MUSICIANS The Sanctuary Choir; Daniel Schmunk, *Director of Choral Music*
 Children's Choir; Christine Vasko, *Director*

CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM Christopher Bernard Vasko, *son of Paul and Marie Vasko*

Staff directory: parkstreet.org/about-us/staff

COLLECTIVE PRAYERS

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is well pleased!"

Luke 2:14

Let us pray together...

- That the world would see the light of Jesus Christ.
- That God would bring peace to the world as only he can.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Services

Tue, Dec 24 | 5 & 7 pm | *Sanctuary*

Candlelight services led by choir, brass, and organ. There will be no nursery care available during these services. If able, we encourage you to attend the 7 pm service.

Morning Worship Details for Sun, Dec 29

Sun, Dec 29 | 11 am | *Sanctuary*

We will worship together at one service at 11 am. There will be no Family Ministry activities, including Nursery or Children's Church. The church building will close at 1 pm.

Missions Christmas Tree

If you were inspired by this year's mission conference and are looking for ways to proclaim Jesus in your daily life, then stop by the Welcome Center to pick up a Christmas ornament. Each ornament has a special mission for you or your family.

Family Ministry Programs Schedule

Tue, Dec 24 | 5 & 7 pm | No Family Ministry programming

Sun, Dec 29 | No Family Ministry programming; this includes Nursery & Children's Church

Sun, Jan 5 | No Sunday School or Youth. Nursery & Children's Church will be available.

Fri, Jan 10 | 7 – 9 pm | Friday Family Night

Reception for Andrew & Anne May

Sun, Dec 22 | 9:45 am & 12:30 pm | *Granary Room*

Come hear some exciting family and ministry updates from Andrew & Anne May, PSC missionaries serving with Hope Prison Ministry in the South African prison system. The ministry's counseling, Bible Study, Restorative Justice program, and aftercare program aim to break the cycle of crime and incarceration and see prisoners transformed by the love of Christ.

Reception for Chris May

Sun, Jan 5 | after the 11 am service | *Granary Room*

Our Minister to Women, Chris May, is retiring. Come celebrate her ministry among us.

Candidate Slate for 2025 Annual Meeting

Church Clerk, Debbie Gallagher, sent an email earlier this week publishing the slate of PSC members who have been nominated to be candidates for the positions of officers, elders and members of the Nominating Committee for 2025. We encourage you to review it in advance of the Annual Meeting (Sun, Feb 23). There will be paper copies available at the back of the Sanctuary. Please visit parkstreet.org/candidates to view the slate online.

New Members Class

Jan 12, 19, & 26 | 12:30-4 pm

Interested in learning more about the church? Join us three Sundays for lunch and an exploration of the community life, theological convictions, and unique priorities of Park Street Church. Register at parkstreet.org/newmembers by Tue, Jan 7. Space is limited.

Financial Update:

In life and ministry, we walk by faith, trusting that God will provide. About \$4.6 million of our nearly \$5.6 million budget (including ministry & operations and missions) comes from regular giving from you, and nearly 25% of our church's giving is done in December! Please consider giving generously, not just to help us close out the year, but to help us grow and continue to proclaim the Gospel boldly in 2025 to a broken world that desperately needs it.

Ministry & Operations:

Giving through December 1st was \$2 million, 6% below last year at this time. Year to date expenses are 4% below budget.

Missions:

Giving through December 1st was \$1.1 million, 14% below last year at this time. Year to date expenses are 13% below budget.

—The Finance & Administration Committee

Jesus Above All

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** 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!



PARK STREET CHURCH