



SERVICE *of* WORSHIP

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, November 30, 2025

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 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). The candles on the communion table are of unbleached beeswax.

THE PRELUDE

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

INTROIT

(II AM)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.

Words: German Traditional, Isaiah 11:1 | Music: Cologne Gesangbuch

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-fered 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

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 daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
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

(8:30 AM)

! *The People stand and may sing the bold portions.*

Burn for You

O Lord, would you open the heavens,
O Lord, come and make all things new.
I will keep watching and praying,
As my soul longs only for you.
So I'm gathering wood for the fire;
I'm filling my lamp with the oil.
O Lord, in the season of waiting,
Let my heart burn only for you.

*Wake me up from my slumber God,
Fill my heart with your fire God,
I want to burn, I want to burn for you.*

The night seems to keep getting darker
As we wait for the bright Morning Star.
Our lamps, they are trimmed and they're burning,
But the dawn comes only with you.
O Sun long-expected, arise now:
shine bright in the shadows on earth
(the darkness cannot comprehend it)
where the light comes only from you. (*Chorus*)

I know you will come like you promised;
I know you will come like the rain,
So I will keep watching and praying
As my soul longs only for you.
So I'm gathering wood for the fire
I'm filling my lamp with the oil
O Lord in the season of waiting
Let my heart burn only for you, oh let my heart burn only for you. (*Chorus*)

Words & Music: 2018, Jennifer Ogden and David Brymer; add'l words: Andrew Skinner (b. 1989)

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(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

Exodus 19:1–14, 20:18–21

pew Bible p. 60

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-pare 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)

¶ *The People sit.*

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:9–12

pew Bible p. 1015

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

A God-Given Identity

Mark Booker

HYMN

¶ *The People stand.*

№ 241 Thou Dost Reign On High

MARGARET

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.*

Aria, from the Cantata for the First Sunday of Advent

Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze,
 Open yourself, my entire heart,
Jesus kömmt und ziehet ein.
 Jesus comes and enters in.
Bin ich gleich nur Staub und Erde,
 Even though I am only dust and earth,
Will er mich doch nicht verschmäh'n,
 yet he does not scorn
Seine Lust an mir zu sehn,
 to reveal his joy to me,
Daß ich seine Wohnung werde.
 so that I may be his dwelling.
O wie selig werd ich sein!
 O how happy will I be!

Words: translation, Pamela Dellal, printed by permission | Music: J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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 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. Today's postlude is a four-voice fugue played by the hands, using a theme taken from the traditional German hymn setting of the Magnificat; at the end, the pedals finally enter, playing the whole hymn melody in extended slow notes, while the fugue continues in the hands.*

Fugue over the Magnificat

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

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 MINISTER Polo Kim, *Minister to Internationals*

ELDERS 8:30 Steven James Weibley

11:00 Andrew J. Buckler

LAY READERS 8:30 Mike Ahearn

11:00 Christine Vasko

ADVENT WREATH 8:30 The White Family

11:00 The Chen Family

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

Ashley Schumacher, *soprano*

Kirstin Peltz, *cello*

Samuel Bigus, *upright bass*

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

COLLECTIVE PRAYERS

"But Moses implored the Lord his God..." Exodus 32:11

Let us pray together...

- Thanking God for his faithfulness to this church for over two centuries, and to the worldwide Church for many more.
- That God would increase our love for each other and our wisdom and ability to care for those in our community who are suffering.
- For our missionaries around the globe, that they would be rooted and grounded in the love of God.
- For the city of Boston, that its leaders would receive wisdom from God that would lead to the flourishing of its people.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

More details at parkstreet.org/everything

* Indicates childcare available. Preregistration may be required.

Today

Sunday Worship* | 8:30 am & 11 am | *Sanctuary*

Adult Sunday School in Regions* | 9:45 am | *Terrace, Granary, and Welcome Center*

Children's Choir | 9:45 am | *Sky Room*

Children's Church & Nursery | 8:30 am & 11 am | *Various Rooms*

Park Street International Fellowship | 12:30 pm | *Fellowship Hall*

This Week

Morning Prayer | Weekdays, 8:30 am | parkstreet.org/morningprayer

ESL Classes & Activities* | Tue, Wed, & Thu | *Various Rooms*

Café Young Adults | Tue & Wed, 7 pm | *Welcome Center*

The Men's Bible Study | Wed, 7:30 am | *Common Room*

Woman's Benevolent Society | Wed, 10 am | *Granary Room*

Life Together Women's Bible Study* | Wed, 10 am | *Terrace Room*

Haitian ESL Classes | Sat, 9:30 am | *Granary Room and Common Room*

Other Small Groups and Bible Studies | Various Times | *See parkstreet.org/groups*

General

Women's Ministry Advent Gathering | Sat, Dec 6, 1:30 pm | *Welcome Center*

Come make Advent wreaths from fresh greens, write Christmas cards to Home Ministry participants, drink tea, munch snacks, and enjoy a message about the deeper meaning of Advent. Register for the gathering on Church Center. Childcare is available for children ages 0-4.

Blue Christmas | Tue, Dec 9, 7 pm | *Sanctuary*

Blue Christmas is a service that acknowledges suffering and offers hope, filled with music, a parable, and personal prayer for any who desire it.

Newcomers Lunch | Sun, Dec 14, 12:30 pm | *Granary Room*

If you're new to Park Street and considering making it your home church, welcome! Bring your questions about the church and meet some of our leaders as we enjoy good food together. Please RSVP by emailing new@parkstreet.org.

Festival of Lessons and Carols | Sun, Dec 14, 7 pm | *Sanctuary*

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 with music by the Sanctuary Choir and Park Street Orchestra, and hymns sung by the congregation. Come early to get a seat.

Register for childcare on Church Center.

Christmas Eve Services | Wednesday, December 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 as the 5 pm is preferable for those with younger children.

Annual Meeting 2026 | Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | *Sanctuary*

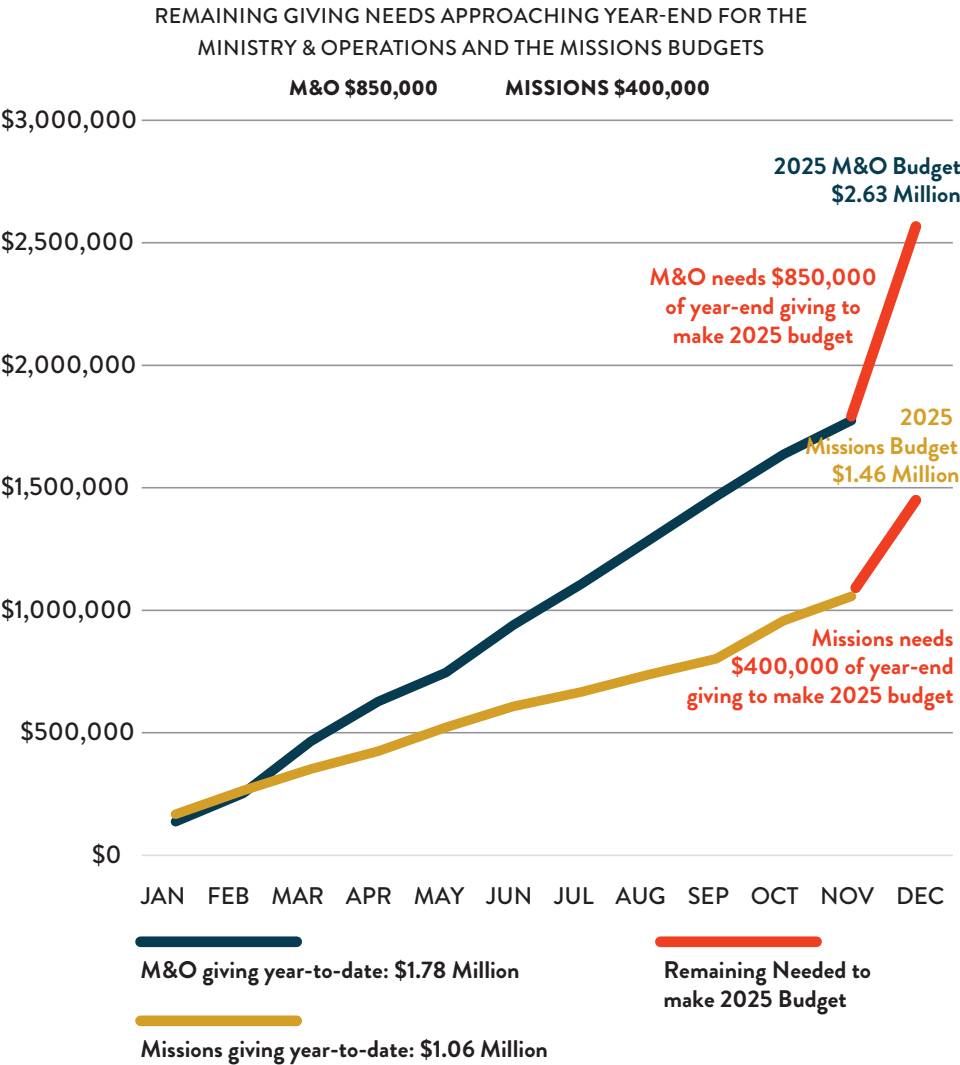
More details will be available in the coming weeks.

Jesus
Above
All

2025 YEAR-END BUDGET UPDATE

During the last weeks of the year our congregation's Ministry & Operations (M&O) and Missions giving is hoped to be \$850,000 for M&O and \$400,000 for Missions. While the remaining need may seem daunting, take heart; it is typical for 30% or more of the annual budgets to be funded by our gifts given in the last several weeks of the year.

Please pray, remembering that each of us should give sacrificially as we are able, and that God loves a cheerful giver. Remember that gifts intended for Missions must be specifically designated as such. The accompanying chart illustrates the situation.



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