



The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2025 · 5:00 & 7:00 PM

Park Street Church

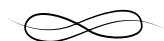
ORDER *of* WORSHIP

*The People are invited to kneel, sit, and stand by indication in this printed booklet, and do not need to wait for a verbal cue. The people read aloud the text in **bold** type. In singing instructions, a stanza marked “trebles” is sung by all women and children. The service proceeds without instruction or announcement.*

This solemn, joyful liturgy is taken from the broad traditions of the Church and from past practices of Park Street Church. Joyful solemnity fits the great magnitude of the occasion we celebrate, infusing every element with meaning, as we seek to worship God “with reverence and awe.” (Heb. 12:28).

Candles have long been used in Christian worship, representing specifically the light of Christ, and generally the Divine presence we enter when we come together before God. At Christmas, candles take on particular poignancy: light shining in the darkness, warmth glowing in the cold, and life flickering amidst stillness.

In the sanctuary, the penitential purple of Advent is replaced with white and gold, and the decorations reach their exuberant fullness, as we enter the twelve-day season of Christmastide. The use of greenery in Christmas decoration is an ancient practice of the Church. The evergreen branches represent life in the cold of winter: a vegetative representation of the Light that shines in the darkness.



PRELUDE

¶ *Music is played by the organ and brass, as we prepare in body and mind to enter into the Lord’s worship.*

Second Suite of Noël: I. Your Goodness, Great God

Claude Balbastre
(1724–1799)

Gloria in Excelsis Deo, from Christmas Cantata

Daniel Pinkham
(1924–2019)

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

J. Brahms
(1833–1897)

¶ *Immediately at the conclusion of the prelude, the People stand. The Minister calls the People to worship from outside the sanctuary and the procession follows.*

CALL *to* WORSHIP

Minister **Alleluia!** Unto us a child is born.

People **O come, let us adore him. Alleluia!**

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light,
 3. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

come and be - hold him born the King of An - gels:
 ever - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:
 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

4. (*in unison*)

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God__ in__ the__ highest:
O, come, let us adore him ...

5. (*in unison*)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee__ be__ glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O, come, let us adore him ...

[†]*very*: from Latin *veritas*, the word historically meant *true*. Stanza three is based on the Nicene Creed, “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made...”

Words and Music: *Adeste Fideles* in “*Cantus Diversi*,” 1751 | John Francis Wade (1711–1786)
trans. 1841 | Frederick Oakley (1802–1880)
harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

PRAYER of INVOCATION

Elder Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Savior. Eternal God and Father, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN N^o 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

¶ *The People sit.*

The **OLD TESTAMENT**

Isaiah 9:1–7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior
in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

The **PSALM**

96 Cantate Domino

O sing unto the Lord a new song;
sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
²Sing unto the Lord and praise his Name;
be telling of his salvation from day to day.
³Declare his honor unto the nations,
and his wonders unto all peoples.
⁴For the Lord is great, and highly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord that made the heavens.
⁶Glory and worship are before him;
pow'r and honor are in his sanctuary.
⁷Ascribe unto the Lord, O you families of the peoples,
ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.
⁸Ascribe unto the Lord the honor due unto his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
⁹O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations, "The Lord is King;
it is he who has made the round world so firm
that it cannot be moved;
he shall judge the peoples righteously."
¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
¹²Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it;
then shall all the trees of the wood
rejoice before the Lord.
¹³For he comes, for he comes to judge the earth,
and with righteousness to judge the world,
and the peoples with his truth.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Music: Osborne Peasgood (1902–1962)

The **EPISTLE**

Titus 3:4–7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ¹he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ²whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ³so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

¶ *The People stand.*

HYMN N^o 195

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

¶ *The People remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.*

The **GOSPEL**

Luke 2:1–20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those
with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us
go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has
happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and
Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when
they saw it, they made known the saying that had

been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who
heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering
them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard
and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God**

¶ *The People sit.*

ANTHEM

What Child Is This

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ, the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Words: ca. 1865 | W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: *Greensleeves* arr. 2025 | Timothy Mills (b. 1990) (*former member, Sanctuary Choir*)

SERMON

Mark Booker, *Senior Minister*

¶ *The People stand.*

The NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

¶ *The People kneel or sit.*

The PRAYERS *concluding with the* **LORD'S PRAYER**

Minister Offering our own silent prayers in the time provided, let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. (*silent prayer*)

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. (*silent prayer*)

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to [...] and to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. (*silent prayer*)

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. (*silent prayer*)

Holy God, **hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with all the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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 People stand.*

The **PEACE**

Minister The angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." 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.*

OFFERING

Minister For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (*2 Cor 8:9*)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sleeps Judea Fair

Sleeps Judea fair, bides the Christ-child there:
shepherds, haste ye! Flocks forsaking,
swift your way to him be taking,
babe of Israel's prayer, babe of Israel's prayer.

Christ from God is come, choosing earthly home:
royal pomp and splendor never,
but with love, which naught can sever,
he will heal the dumb; Christ from God is come.

Lowly bend the knee, thou from sin set free:
let the Christ Child, meekly smiling,
infantwise, all woe beguiling,
grant his peace to thee, grant his grace to thee.

Words & Music: Hugh MacKinnon (1891–1981)

¶ *The People stand.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

The First Nowell

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay
keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell ...

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star where'er it went.
Nowell ...

Trebles 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right o'er the place where Jesus lay.
(*All*) *Nowell ...*

Men 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
(*All*) *Nowell ...*

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth
of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell ...

Note: Noël is the French word for Christmas; it can also refer to a Christmas carol. Nowell is the English spelling. Stanza one views the angel's announcement to the shepherds as the first Christmas carol.

PRAYER of DEDICATION

Minister Giver of every good and perfect gift, tribute and praises we bring to you. Let the words of our mouths proclaim the dawn of redemption Christ inaugurates. Use our talents to spread abroad the good news of his reconciling love, that all people may find in him the abundant life he so richly promised. God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen.**

The LIGHTING of CANDLES

¶ *The People are invited to kneel in adoration before the King of kings as the lights are dimmed, recalling to mind that Christ was born in the dark of night. Tilt the unlit candle toward the lit candle, to avoid spilling wax. The hymn will begin after a brief interval. Remain kneeling during the hymn and the Last Gospel.*

Minister Arise, shine, for your light has come! Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world,” but he also said, “you are the light of the world.” Christ our Light has made us a light, that through us the good news of salvation would shine to the ends of the earth.

HYMN No 210

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

The LAST GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives

light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¶ *The People stand.*

The DISMISSAL from Luke 2

Minister Let us pray.

People Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King:
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!”
 joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with th’angelic host proclaim,
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King.”*

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord!
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
 veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 hail th’incarnate Deity,
 pleased as man with men to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark!...

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 light and life to all he brings,
 ris’n with healing in his wings.
 mild he lays his glory by,
 born that man no more may die,
 born to raise the sons of earth,
 born to give them second birth.

Hark!...

4 Come, Desire of Nations, come,
 fix in us thy humble home;
 rise, the woman’s conqu’ring seed,
 bruise in us the serpent’s head.
 Adam’s likeness, Lord, efface,
 stamp thine image in its place:
 Second Adam from above,
 reinstate us in thy love.

Hark!...

The POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Keith Chapman
 (1945–1989)

¶ *The steeple bells are rung as music is played on the organ. The People may sit or leave quietly. Please be respectful of those listening to the music.*



Merry Christmas!

We invite you back for worship this Sunday and next Sunday at 11:00 am.
 Our normal Sunday services are at 8:30 and 11:00 am. (8:30 service resumes Jan 11)

SERVICE LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Mark L. Booker, *Senior Minister*

Nathan Skinner, *Director of Music & Organist*

ASSISTING MINISTERS 5:00 Adam Herndon, *Minister of Discipleship*
Daniel Verrengia, *Retired Minister*
7:00 Polo Kim, *Minister to Internationals*
Randall Wetzig, *Assistant Minister*

ELDERS 5:00 Geoffrey Raux, *Moderator*
7:00 Andrew Ziegler

LAY READERS 5:00 Evan Gerber
7:00 Claire Booker

ACOLYTE 5:00 Julia Hutter
7:00 Jack Newell

MUSICIANS Daniel Schmunk, *Director of Choral Music*
The Sanctuary Choir
Angelina Savoia, *harp*
Eric M. Berlin & Max Ignas, *trumpet*
Michael Bellofatto, *horn*
Don Lucas & Kevin A. Virgilio, *trombone*
Eric Goode, *tuba*
Casey Voss, *timpani*
Daniel Pooley, *percussion*

SANCTUARY DECORATIONS Jennifer Schmunk, *Assistant to the Director of Music*
Gregory O'Brien

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



Park Street Church