

Service *of* Worship

Park Street Church | The Lord's Day, November 29, 2026

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 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
(11 AM)

Sleepers, Wake! *from Paulus*

Sleepers, wake! A voice is calling,
It is the watchman on the walls: thou city of Jerusalem!
For lo! The bridegroom comes! Arise, and take your lamps!
Hallelujah! Awake! His kingdom is at hand!

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608) | Music: arr. Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

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!

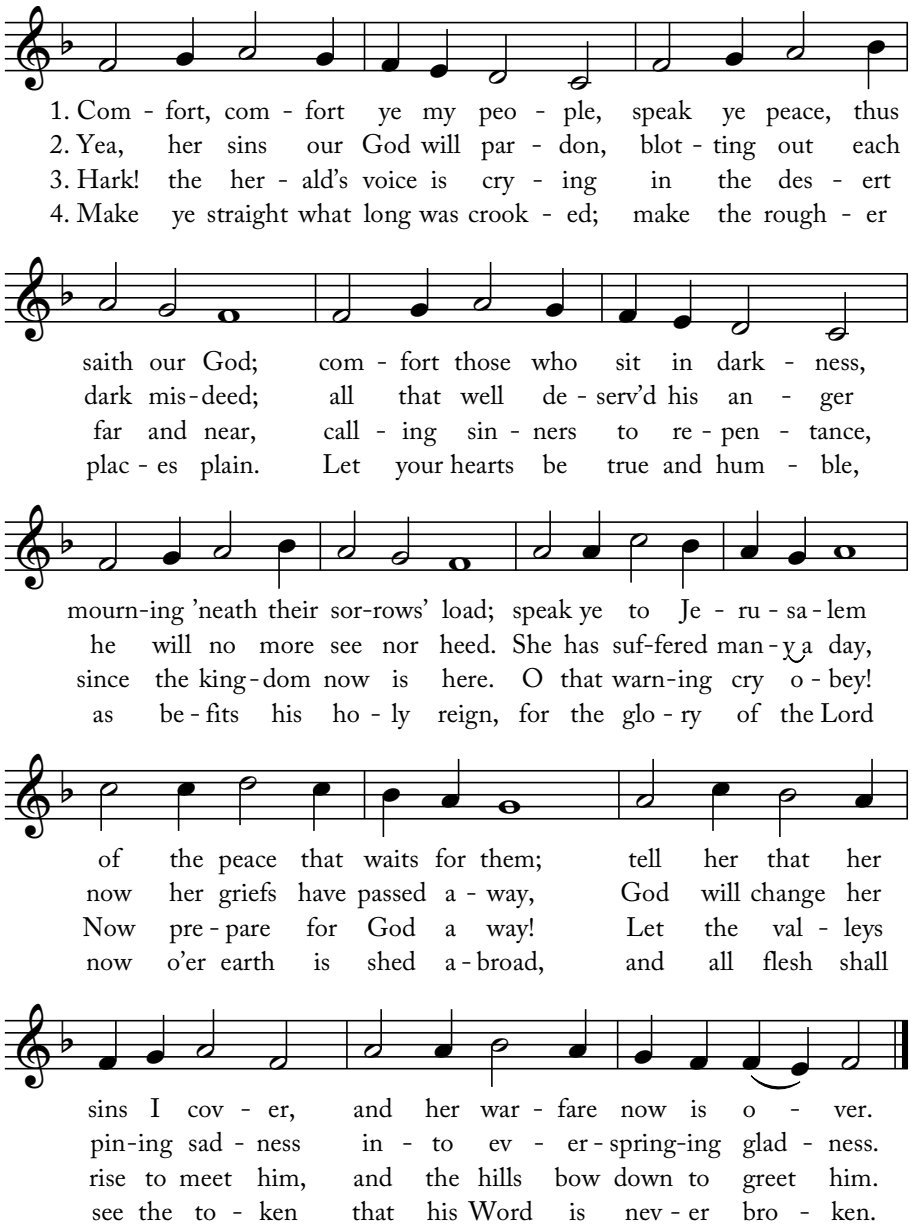
Leader He has promised us an inheritance
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
and we are being guarded by God's power for a salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time.

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



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

¶ *Led by the Elder*

DECALOGUE

Leader God spoke these words and said:
I am the LORD your God. You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make for yourself any idol.
You shall not take the Name of the LORD your God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,**
and give us grace to love you
with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Leader Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,**
and give us grace to love our neighbors as ourselves.

CONFESSION OF SIN

¶ *At the Minister's invitation, the People kneel or sit and pray*

Almighty God, merciful Father;
we confess to you all our sins and iniquities
with which we have ever offended you.
We are heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them;
we flee for refuge in your infinite mercy,
seeking and imploring your grace
for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

¶ *The Minister declares God's forgiveness to the People and reminds them of the comforting words of Holy Scripture, after which the People stand.*

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*** *text.*

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)
Words © Sentric Music. Reprinted under CCLI no. 402487

(11 AM)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture
—in the body and the blood—
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high.

Words: Liturgy of St James, trans. Gerard Moultrie | Music: French carol, arr. Stephen Cleobury (1948–2019)

THE PSALM

130 *pew Bible p. 518*

¶ *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.

The Gloria Patri, or "lesser Doxology," is traditionally sung or recited at the end of psalms, in order to place them in an explicitly Trinitarian frame.

¶ *The People sit.*

THE LESSON

Mark 13:24–37 *pew Bible p. 850*

Reader The Word of the Lord.

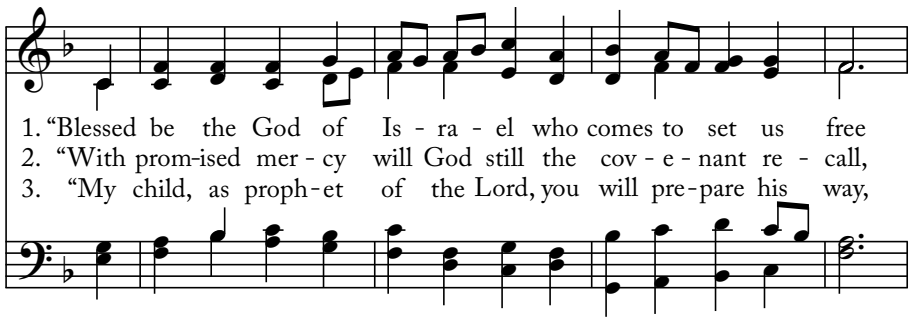
People **Thanks be to God.**

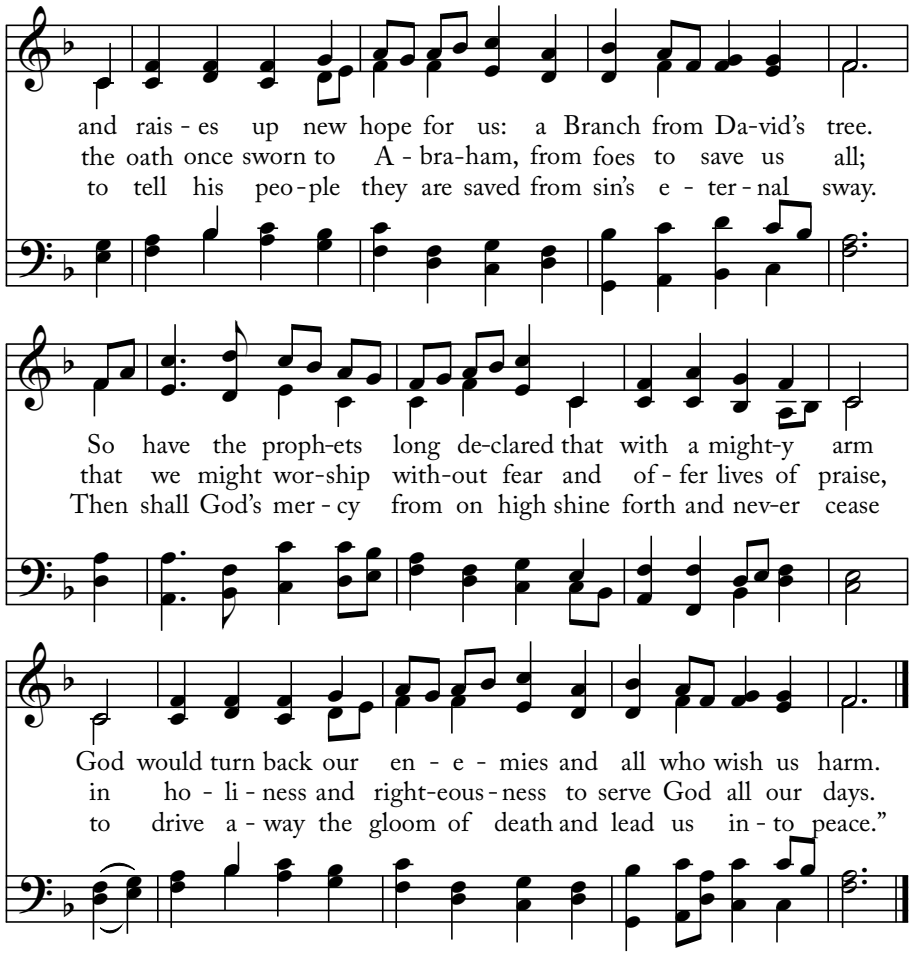
PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

¶ *Children are welcome to remain in the service, or to proceed to Children's Church during the next hymn. After the prayer, the People stand for the hymn.*
8:30 preschool to 1st grade | 11:00 preschool to 4th grade

HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel — Forest Green





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.*

SERMON

Keep Awake — Polo Kim

HYMN

¶ *The People stand.*

№ 241 Thou Dost Reign On High — Margaret

THE PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

¶ *The People kneel or sit. A Minister leads the People in prayer for the world, the church, the sick, and the suffering, concluding with*

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.

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 verschmähn,
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

№ 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.*

March Upon Handel's *Lift Up Your Heads* — A. Guilmant (1837–1911)

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*

Preacher		Polo Kim, *Minister to Internationals*
Assisting Minister		Randall Wetzig, *Assistant Minister*
Elders	8:30	Andrew J. Buckler
	11:00	Kirstin Peltz
Lay Readers	8:30	Marty Lindemann
	11:00	Alex Cist
Advent Wreath	8:30	The Ireland Family
	11:00	The Clarke Family
Musicians		The Sanctuary Choir; Daniel Schmunk, *Director of Choral Music*
		Ashley Schumacher, *soprano*
		Samuel Bigus, *upright bass*

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

COLLECTIVE PRAYERS

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2

Let us pray together…

- 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.
- For small groups ministry, that these hubs of community would reach into their neighborhoods, and that we would be known as disciples by our love for one another.
- For short-term Mission teams, that the Holy Spirit would be moving in the hearts of those whom he would call to participate in short-term mission trips next year.

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 & 11 am | *Sanctuary*
Nursery & Children's Church | 8:30 & 11 am | *Various Rooms*
Adult Sunday School in Regions | 9:45 am | *Various Rooms*
~There is no Sunday School for children or youth today,
but they are welcome to attend Adult Sunday School with their parents.
Park Street International Fellowship (PSIF) | 12:30 pm | *Fellowship Hall*

This Week

Morning Prayer | Weekdays, 8:30 am | *parkstreet.org/morningprayer*
Perspectives Course | Mon, 6 pm | *Granary Room*
ESL Classes | Tue & Thu, 9:30 am | *Various Rooms*
Home Ministry Outreach Meals | Thu, 5:45 pm & Sat, 8:30 am | *Fellowship Hall*
Friday Night Youth Group | Fri, 7 pm | *Youth Room*
Small Groups and Other Bible Studies | Various Times | *parkstreet.org/groups*

General

Festival of Lessons and Carols | Sun, Dec 13, 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.

Fall 2026 Home Art Fellowship Exhibition | Sun, Dec 13, 12:45 pm
Celebrate the creativity and community of this semester's group as we showcase artwork created throughout the fall. The exhibition will also feature reflections from artists and volunteers who have spent their Saturday mornings creating, connecting, and growing together.

Lunch for Newcomers | Sun, Dec 13, 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**, or feel free to drop in after the service.

Blue Christmas | Wed, Dec 16, 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.

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

Details for Sun, Dec 27 & Jan 3
We will worship together in one service at 11 am on Sun, Dec 27 & Jan 3. There will be no Sunday School for adults, teens, or children. There will be nursery for ages 0–4 on Dec 27 but no children's church. On Jan 3, there will be nursery, Children's Church, and children's choir.

Annual Meeting 2027 | Wed, Feb 24, 2027 | ***Sanctuary***
The 2027 Annual Meeting will be held on Wed, Feb 24. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

Jesus
Above
All

Park Street Church is a Christ-centered community whose mission is to make disciples who become like Jesus together. We do that by pursuing four central elements of the Christian life: **worship, community, mission,** and **catechesis/teaching**.

Whether you are new or have been here many years, we encourage you to join us in the practices below, by which we trust God is actively working in us.

- **Each Sunday**: attend worship and Sunday School
- **Each week**: meet with a small group
- **Each month**: serve in a ministry
- **Each day**: engage in God's mission



WORSHIP | *Loving God*

- Attend worship on Sundays.
- Set aside dedicated time each day for prayer and Bible reading.
- Give generously and regularly as an act of worship.

MISSION | *Loving Our Neighbors*

- Volunteer with one of our city ministries: **parkstreet.org/city**.
- Pray for our missionaries and missions program through the monthly eNews prayer guide.

COMMUNITY | *Loving One Another*

- Small groups **parkstreet.org/groups**
- Serve monthly **parkstreet.org/serve**
- Sign up for **parkstreet.org/enews**.

CATECHESIS | *Loving God's Word*

- Regularly attend a Sunday School class (for kids and adults) as part of your Sunday rhythm. See **parkstreet.org/sundayschool**.

Park Street Church