

FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

February 2, 2025 - Communion Sunday



# Order of Worship for February 2, 2025

*Gathering, Centering, Announcements - 10:15am*

*Sanctuary Worship - 10:30am*

*Please note: All communion elements are gluten free, nut free, and alcohol free.*

## Gathering Music

Patrick Coyle, piano

*We Gather Together*

arr. John Carter

*Canon in D*

J. Pachelbel/arr. Hal Hopson

*Soon and Very Soon*

Andrae Crouch/arr. Jack Schrader

*Lord of the Dance*

arr. Joel Raney

## Welcome

Rev. Darryl Kistler

## The Moment for the Young & Young-at-Heart

## Invitation to Worship

Reading Responsively  
Janet Mitchell, liturgist

**One:** Children of God, we come to worship today with expectations: how we expect to feel, what we expect to experience, songs we expect to sing, or prayers we expect to pray. We find comfort in the familiar.

**All:** **We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

**One:** Sometimes what feels familiar grows stale. We stop noticing the power of our prayers. We hear but don't listen to the Word. We sing without letting the music seep into our hearts. Yet, God is still here, moving and working among us.

**All:** **We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

**One:** We may meet God in a familiar voice speaking a hard word, in a song we love

that pierces our hearts, in a prayer that we receive in a new way. Because God is here, moving and working among us.

**All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

**One:** Children of God, come! Let us worship, ready to embrace God's Word already at work among us, even when we are challenged to recognize God in the familiar and unfamiliar alike.

**All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here. Thank be to God! Amen.**

Prelude

Phyllis Ann Miner, harp  
*La fille aux cheveux de lin*  
Claude Debussy, arr. Barbara Brundage

+ Invocation

Reading Responsively

**One:** In a cynical and despairing world, O God,

**All: give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your hope.**

**One:** In a violent and angry world, O God,

**All: give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your peace.**

**One:** In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God,

**All: give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion.**

**One:** In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God,

**All: give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your love.**

**One:** In a grieving and weeping world, O God,

**All: give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your joy.**

**One:** May we be so captivated by your hope, O God,

that we cannot help but to whisper,

to sing, and to enact,

the message of your reign

which is always coming into our world;

**All: And may our quietly prophetic lives  
be channels of your restoring grace  
wherever we may go. Amen.**

+ Hymn of Praise - No. 463

*How Firm a Foundation*

Tune: FOUNDATION

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 13

Janet Mitchell, liturgist

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Anthem

The Chancel Choir

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

Paul Langston

*(For text, see hymn 307.)*

Sermon: *Darryl's Last Sermon (Before He Turns 50)*

Pastor Darryl

Meditation

Phyllis Ann Miner, harp  
*Pavane*  
Gabriel Fauré

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution*

*Sharing in the Bread and Cup*

Phyllis Ann Miner, harp  
*Amazing Grace*  
arr. Frank Voltz

*Steal Away to Jesus*  
arr. Darlene Rees-Rohrbacher

*I Need Thee Every Hour*  
arr. Jodi Ann Tolman

*Prayer after Communion*

concluding, the congregation prays in unison:

**...Our Father/Mother/God, 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 forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity and Stewardship

Offertory Music

The Smith-Dively Ringers  
Kurt Stroh, Director  
*Nocturne #1 in c minor*  
Michael Helman

+ Doxology

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures high and low;  
Praise God in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Amen.*

+ Prayer of Dedication

Reading in Unison

**Compassionate God, who sees beyond our boundaries and loves without limit, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim your good news, heal the broken, and extend your love to all, especially those we struggle to accept. Transform our gifts into a beacon of hope and inclusion that reflects the boundless love of Christ in every corner of our community. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

+ Hymn - No. 208

*O Blest Are They Who in Their Love*

Verse 1: Choir

Verse 2: Congregation

Verse 4: Congregation

Tune: GUILSBORO

+ Common Commission

Reading in Unison

**Let us now go forth into the world in peace; being of good courage; holding fast to that which is good; rendering to no one evil for evil; strengthening the faint hearted; supporting the weak; helping the afflicted; honoring all people; loving and serving the Lord and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Postlude

Phyllis Ann Miner, organ  
*God of Grace and God of Glory*

arr. Anna Laura Page

***Thank you for joining us this morning!***

We'd like to know that you were here, answer any questions you have, and support you in prayer. Please fill out the information card and place it in the offering plate.

***Following Worship***

Darryl's 50th Birthday Party is in Merriam Hall after Worship

P.O.P. Table: *Why Christianity Must Change or Die* book sale: \$10.00

**A Note from our Accessible to All (A2A) Team**

I humbly serve as Vice Moderator of Park Church and am a passionate member of the A2A team. I am also someone who lives with a hearing disability. There are more than a few of us at Park Church. Several people have commented over the last couple of years about having difficulty hearing everything from the front of the church. Changes have been made to the microphones on the pulpit and lectern, and our audio team in the church have worked hard to address this problem. We also have "Hearing Assistance Devices" available for people to use every Sunday. Please see an usher if you need one. Despite these efforts, some people are still having difficulties.

One thing I recently learned is that the church has additional support for people who wear hearing aids. Bluetooth software has been installed so that people with hearing aids can connect directly to the sound system for clearer reception of what is happening. For me, this has added levels of clarity and richness to the service. Unfortunately, not all hearing aids are compatible. But I encourage you to check. You need only to speak with an usher before the service. Or you can call the church office for more information. A2A is working to make Park Church more accessible. It is heartening to know that we already have a spirit of A2A though much more needs to be done.

~ Randy Velzen

## ***Joys and Concerns***

**Sue Winer's father, Mike VanDuinen** passed away on January 18. A visitation will be at Park Church on Saturday, February 15 from 10:30-12:00. A private family service will follow. Send condolences to Sue and Greg at 2134 Innwood SE, Kentwood, MI 49508.

**Please pray for those navigating illness/treatment including:** Ron Bickel, Margaret Bilsky, Kurt Myers, Judy Strock, and Liz Taylor.

**Remember our young people away at college** including: Luke Barnum, Laura DeBoer, Mallory Hagemann, Lily Kugler, Jack O'Malley, and Drew Wolford.

**Remember those serving in the military** including: Jesse Campbell, Devon Goetz, Andy MacGregor, and Matthew Quick.

**Pastoral care is always available.** Contact Pastor Darryl at [dkistler@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:dkistler@parkchurchgr.org).

### ***The Sanctuary Flowers***

#### **The flowers on the Altar**

In memory of Budd and Maxine Nichols and Larry and Mattie Littell.  
Given by Bob and Pam Nichols.

#### **The flowers at the Pulpit**

In memory of Felicita Casanova.  
Given by Humberto and Deanne Casanova.

#### **The flowers at the Lectern**

In memory of our parents.  
Given by Mike and Janet Mitchell.

#### **The flowers on the Children's Altar**

In honor of all the children.  
Given by Kathy Miller.

If you would like to dedicate Sanctuary flowers, email Marcia Streeter. [mabiti1@gmail.com](mailto:mabiti1@gmail.com)



## **Let's Celebrate Pastor Darryl's 50th Birthday!**

### **TODAY after Worship in Merriam Hall**

Pastor Darryl and Tammie invite you to a birthday party! We will enjoy birthday punch, cake, and party games together in honor of Pastor Darryl's big day. (Gluten-free options available). Cards can be sent to the church office...especially humorous ones! In lieu of gifts, which are neither requested or expected, please consider a contribution to Park Church designated for Pastor Darryl's Discretionary Fund.

## **Why Christianity Must Change or Die Book Study**

### **Sundays, February 9, 16, 23, and March 2 at 9:15am**

You are all invited to a 4-week book study on *Why Christianity Must Change or Die* by John Shelby Spong led by Rev. Dick Sherlock. The group will meet in-person on Sunday mornings in Martenson Parlor. Grab your breakfast and join us! You'll be finished with plenty of time to head upstairs for the worship service. The book is available at the POP Table for \$10:00.

## **Super Bowl Sunday Soup Sale**

### **Sunday, February 9 in Allinder Commons**

Even though our beloved Lions will not be playing in the Super Bowl, there will still be commercials to watch! So, Ofield Ten will be selling you soup to enjoy during the game after worship on Feb. 9 in Allinder Commons. \$5.00 and \$10.00 sizes. Cash preferred!

## **Announcing ParkPrize 2025: A showcase of creative expression!**

### **February 16-23 in Merriam Hall**

You know ALL about ArtPrize. We are excited to introduce you to ParkPrize 2025. We know our congregation is full of amazing artists and we want to celebrate your creativity. On February 16 and 23, Merriam Hall will be our own ParkPrize 2025 gallery which is where you come in! If you have art you would like to display (whatever medium suits you: photos, textile, models, sculptures, paper art, needleworks, yarn, drawings, paintings, Legos...any artistic expression) please contact Terrie Hunter [thunter@park-churchgr.org](mailto:thunter@park-churchgr.org) and plan to visit the ParkPrize 2025 displays in February and enjoy the artistic talent of your church friends and neighbors.

## **Help Wanted/Needed: Children's Worship Center Assistants and Subs!**

The Children's Worship Center is in need of an additional Teacher's Assistant to help out for the months of February and April. The teachers and teacher's assistants commit to being nurturing the faith of our children every other month. We also need occasional subs to help out as well. Our children's ministry continues to grow here at Park Church! And this growth means that we are in need for additional support. If you are inspired to help, or are interested, or would like more information, please contact Peter Smith, our Spiritual Education Minister at [psmith@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:psmith@parkchurchgr.org).

## **Calling all Park Church History Buffs**

Are you "good with faces"? There is a NEW batch of OLD pictures on the table in Spindler Dining Room waiting for your help with identification and context. If you can identify any of these people, please let Fritz Crabb, our Park Church Historian know! [fritz.crabb@gmail.com](mailto:fritz.crabb@gmail.com). While you are at it, check out a NEW batch of NEW pictures that we used for our bulletin boards and take home the ones you would like to keep.

## **Winter/Spring Bible Study**

**Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm  
in Spindler Dining Room or online via Zoom**

Join Pastor Darryl and your Park friends for an engaging study every Wednesday night starting January 29. Even more so than the Torah, the Gospels and Jesus himself quoted and looked to the prophets...it is only right and good for us to do so as well. Given that we only have four sessions before we will take a break for Lent and the Lenten Wednesday Night programs, we will look at some of the Minor Prophets before digging into probably the most influential prophet on Jesus and Christianity, Isaiah.

## ***Winter Bible Study Schedule***

Wednesday, February 5, 7:00pm: Amos

Wednesday, February 12 - NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

Wednesday, February 19, 7:00pm: Hosea

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00pm: Micah

Wednesday, March 5 - Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)

## **Coming up at Park Church**

- Tues. Feb 4 at 6:30pm Board of Deacons meeting
- Wed. Feb 5 at 7:00pm Bible Study (in-person with zoom option)
- Thurs. Feb 6 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group  
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal  
at 6:30pm Parkmeisters rehearsal  
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun. Feb. 9 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship  
at 9:15 Book Study: *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*. Martenson Parlor  
at 9:30 Carol Choir rehearsal in the Children's Worship Center  
at 9:30 Chapel Choir rehearsal in the 3rd floor youth choir room  
Continental breakfast before worship/coffee fellowship after worship  
"Soup"er Bowl Sunday soup sale in Allinder Commons  
Confirmation Class meets
- Tues. Feb 11 at 6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting
- Wed. Feb. 12 at 10:00am Park Church Women board meeting  
at 7:00pm Bible Study (in-person with zoom option)
- Thurs. Feb. 13 at 8:30am Men's Discussion Group  
at 5:30pm Days for Girls Kit Creation Day  
at 6:30pm Smith-Dively Ringers rehearsal  
at 7:00pm West Michigan Survivors of Suicide Loss in Martenson Parlor  
at 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Fri. Feb. 14 at 9:00am Cooking for Degage at Park
- Sat. Feb 15 at 7:30am Serving breakfast at Degage
- Sun. Feb 16 at 10:30am Sanctuary Worship  
at 9:15 Book Study: *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*. Martenson Parlor  
at 9:30 Carol Choir rehearsal in the Children's Worship Center  
at 9:30 Chapel Choir rehearsal in the 3rd floor youth choir room  
Continental breakfast before worship/coffee fellowship after worship  
ParkPrize 2025 opens in Merriam Hall



The Degage sign-up sheet has been updated through 2025.  
Click the QR code to sign up.



*We are an Open and Affirming Congregation*

No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

***Serving With You Today***

Ushers: Paul Davison, captain; Colleen Czarnecki, Amy Rains, Doris Robey,

Richard Rowe, Doug Rubingh

Communion Servers: Pastor Darryl, Patrick Coyle, Andrew Bialk, Rosanne Holton,

Tom Zvirgzds, Chris Krive, Tracey Taylor-Kunst

Greeters: Carrie Corbin, Marlene Fosner

Parking Lot Greeter: Michael Waite-Kress

Sound: Sam Johnson-Begay

Video: Kevin Arnett

Carol Choir: Cheryl Wells

Chapel Choir: Heidi Hertel

Flower Care: Diane LaWarre

***Ministerial and Office Staff:***

Rev. Darryl Kistler, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Patrick Coyle, Minister of Music

Peter Smith, Spiritual Formation & Education Minister

Terrie Hunter, Congregational Life Coordinator

Gene Gess, Finance Director

Camille DeBoer, Communications Coordinator

Tim Persenaire, Lead Custodian

Marty Butler, Parish Life Assistant

Judi Stroh, Events Coordinator

[dkistler@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:dkistler@parkchurchgr.org)

[pcoyle@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:pcoyle@parkchurchgr.org)

[psmith@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:psmith@parkchurchgr.org)

[thunter@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:thunter@parkchurchgr.org)

[ggess@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:ggess@parkchurchgr.org)

[cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:cdeboer@parkchurchgr.org)

[tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:tpersenaire@parkchurchgr.org)

[mbutler@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:mbutler@parkchurchgr.org)

[jestroh@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:jestroh@parkchurchgr.org)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 3:00

10 E Park Pl. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-3203

[office@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:office@parkchurchgr.org)

[www.parkchurchgr.org](http://www.parkchurchgr.org)

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The wifi password is parkchurchguest.



Access the online donor and payment portal by using the camera on your phone and clicking the link that appears.