

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
 JANUARY 13, 2019
 BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY
 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Our silence and reverence will enable others to prepare their hearts and minds for worship. Please take a few moments to sit quietly before God as you come into the sanctuary.

Worship bags are available for all children. The bags, containing activity pages and necessary supplies, hang along the back wall of the sanctuary.
We encourage all children to use one each week!

Meditation

I want to beg you, as much as I can to be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.

— Rainer Maria Rilke

Welcome

Russ Dean

Chiming of the Hour

Music for Preparation

Roll, Jordan, Roll

Spiritual, arr. Ralph Simpson (b. 1933)

Lighting of the Worship Candle

Acolyte

*Processional Hymn

#407, *How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

*Litany of Worship (*responsively*)

Ann Marie Burke

They say “Don’t just talk the talk – you’ve got to walk the walk.” So in the “mountain high” moments:

Let us Walk the Walk.

And in the midst of the mundane, the daily grind:

Let us Walk the Walk.

And in the struggles of life, when we find ourselves in *valley of the shadow*:

Let us Walk the Walk.

Trusting that God is with us, come what may,

ALL: May we have the courage and the consistency to Walk the Walk.

— from Psalm 23

*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, which 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Call to Confession

Dan McClintock

Discipline of Silence

Prayer of Confession

You who are wisdom, forgive us when we settle for easy answers rather than struggling with hard questions. Forgive us when we are more concerned with counting who is on our side than seeking to hear those who are on another side. Forgive us, and teach us to see through the eyes of Your love, to listen with Your compassion, to seek Your wisdom and Your truth. Amen.

— Peggy Haymes

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response

This Little Light of Mine

THIS LITTLE LIGHT

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Children’s Time

Russ Dean

Witness in Word

Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

Amy Jacks Dean

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

Leader: You have heard the ancient STORY.

People: **Let us listen now for the word of the Lord.†**

Witness in Experience

*A New Discipline:
 A Walk of Joyful Struggle*

Russ Dean

Witness in Preaching

She Didn’t Lose Her Joy

Amy Jacks Dean

Prayer of Intercession

Dan McClintock

Mission Offering

Our mission offering for January will benefit Refugee Support Services. Every year, more than 600 refugees arrive in the greater Charlotte area. Refugee Support Services strives to come alongside the local refugee population and help build relationships with them in a family-to-family or individual-to-individual setting so they can thrive in their new community.

Please designate **all checks and envelopes** as either “Annual Ministry Plan” (AMP) or “mission.” In keeping with our initiative to “create a culture of generosity,” **all loose cash** in the offering will be given to our mission for this month. If you write a check or put cash in an envelope, however, please designate this gift.

Offertory Anthem

Down to the River to Pray

Caroline Tucker, soprano

Traditional,

arr. Sheldon Curry (b. 1953)

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin’ about that good ol’ way
 and who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.
 Oh sisters let’s go down, let’s go down, come on down,
 O sisters let’s go down, down to the river to pray.

O brothers...

O fathers...

O mothers...

O sinners...

*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow:

Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

Russ Dean

*Call to Discipleship

We offer all who worship this day an opportunity to commit to the challenge of Jesus: “Come, follow me.” This commitment may be made as a profession of faith, or as a commitment through membership in this church to join us in seeking to follow in the Way of Jesus. You are invited to come forward to be welcomed as we sing.

*Hymn of Commitment

#448, *Take My Life, God, Let It Be*

VIENNA

Meditation of Commitment

Someone recently wrote to me: “I’m not sure I believe in God anymore.” And I replied: “Here’s my honest, non-snarky response—`I’m not sure I believe in atheists anymore . . .

The amount of time and energy and often worry that goes into the non-believing stance indicates to me a deep and spiritual yearning to make sense of the world and one’s place in it. It is the ultimate question. And I can’t imagine that for the believer and the non-believer alike that there is ever a time when the wrestling subsides. The contemplation of God is simply a part of living – therefore I don’t really believe in atheists.”

— Amy Jacks Dean

Benediction

Russ and Amy Jacks Dean

Choral Response

Who'll Be a Witness?

Spiritual

Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Who'll be a witness for my Lord?
Oh I'll be a witness for my Lord. I'll be a witness for my Lord.

Postlude

Gonfalons (Banners)

Mahlon Balderston (1923-2019)

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

The challenge an ancient text presents to modern readers is to allow the truth that originally animated the text to become a "living Word" for us. Only as we interact with a given text in a continual "now" ("now" in the anthem, "now" in the sermon, "now" in the fellowship that follows worship, "now" in the work and service, the joys and sorrows of busy lives) can that Word truly become "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12).

Deacon of the Week: Ann Marie Burke

Ann Marie has been a member at Park Road for many years. She has served in various capacities in leadership over these years. Currently, she, along with her husband, Barry, serve on Ministry Council as Spiritual Development Ministry Area Coordinators. Ann Marie and Barry have raised their two, now grown, daughters in this church. Ann Marie is a realtor with Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation.



A Very Personal Epiphany

During the season of Epiphany Russ and Amy will divide the sermon time each week. Russ will share a "personal epiphany," a synopsis of each of the 9 chapters of his forthcoming book *Finding My Way Back Home*, in which he charts his journey from Southern Baptist to Park Road Baptist, and Amy will share a homily based on the text for the day. The series will lead us all the way to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent which is March 6th.

Here's the lineup:

January 6 – Epiphany Sunday

Testimony: A New Crisis: Once You Get Educated, Nothing is Ever Easy Again
Homily: The "wise men" got educated...

January 13 – 1st Sunday after the Epiphany

Testimony: A New Discipline: A Walk of Joyful Struggle

Homily: Baptism of Jesus – the beginning of his journey—joyful but not easy

January 20 – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Testimony: A New Theology: God Always Does Everything God Can Do

Homily: Jesus turns water into wine, but says to his mother, "Woman, what am I to do about this?"

January 27 – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Testimony: A New Future: Too Many Christians Aren't Ready to Live

Homily: What is Christianity about? Jesus says it's about a Social Gospel...

February 3 – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Testimony: A New Question: Looking for the Spirit of the Message

Homily: The Social Gospel is not what many have learned from the message of Jesus. Maybe we need to listen more closely to the spirit of the message.

February 10 – 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Testimony: A New Dogma: It's All About Where You Draw Your Lines

Homily: Discipleship is about choosing where we will place our commitment and our trust.

February 24 – 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Testimony: A New Faith: Leaving the Blood In

Homily: There is a lot of "pain" in the Christian message, and the death of Jesus is an invitation for us to "die" also to one another.

March 3 – Transfiguration Sunday

Testimony: A New Religion: Everything That's True about Christianity is a Myth

Homily: Is this "transfiguration" literal or not, or is it literal AND more?

About the image on the bulletin cover: The white road signifies the journey during the season of Epiphany. The background gradient transitions from purple to white to signify the transition from the season of Advent (purple) to the white and gold of Transfiguration Sunday - with the star being symbolic of transfiguration. The green background behind the road represents the period of time after Epiphany Sunday up until the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent when the liturgical color will return to purple.

(Designed by Bruce Holliday)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT PARK ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Please turn off all cell phones during worship.

Our newsletter, *Good Tidings*, and copies of past sermons are available in the sanctuary narthex.

A podcast of sermons is available at www.parkroadbaptist.org.

CDs of past worship services are available through the church office.

We encourage you to take the bulletin with you but you may leave it on the back pew to be recycled.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Monty Bennett, *Director of Music and Organist*

Russ and Amy Jacks Dean, *Pastors*

Heather Gaskins, *Director, Child Development Center*

Leslie Gipple, *Operations Manager*

Joey Haynes, *Minister of Youth*

Bruce Holliday, *Director of Communications*

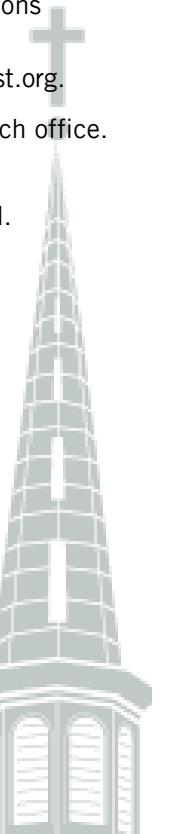
Dan McClintock, *Minister of Mission and Family Life*

Allison Wieland, *Financial Administrator*

Joyce Williams, *Administrative Assistant*

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EPIPHANY

Can I get a witness?