



FIRST SUNDAY
in Lent

MARCH 1, 2020
+ FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT +

PRELUDE

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners
arr. Chris Rice
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cody Taylor and Libby Piotrowski

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we will be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

* OPENING HYMN 215

Christ Jesus Knew a Wilderness

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

from Psalm 32

**How happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven,
whose sin is no longer held against them!**

**How happy are those who no longer lie—
to themselves or to anyone else.**

**When we refuse to admit our sin,
it eats away at us, little by little,
weakening us in body and soul.**

**So let's come before God with our prayers of confession.
Let's lay before God the sin that is weighing us down,
so we can be freed from its burden,
and receive God's mercy and love.**

Silent prayers

God, you are our hiding place! Your unfailing love surrounds us,
and you fill our hearts with songs of joy!

We give you thanks that, in Christ, we are a forgiven people.

Continue to guide us in the way we should go
so that our lives may bring honor to your name.

Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG (Turn page)

Grace Flows Down

Christy Nockels

Led by Dominic German, Carol Olfelt, and Brian Ward

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

Kiran Yutzy, Reader

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (p. 2)

New Testament Reading

Romans 5:12-19 (p. 917)

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11 (p. 785)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Cody Taylor

CHORAL ANTHEM

Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

MEDITATION

Libby Piotrowski

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in Christ and desire to live a life directed by the Holy Spirit are invited to participate in this sacrament. Gluten-free elements are available.

The Great Thanksgiving (Turn two pages)

Communion Music

Take the World, but Give Me Jesus (348)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (345)

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord (342)

Please feel free to sing along with or meditate on the texts of these hymns.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (Using *sins*)

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please pass the red folder down the aisle and sign in to let us know of your presence with us.

Offertory

More Love to Thee, O Christ

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 214

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Following worship, we offer prayer for anyone who so desires.

*If you have been moved in some way during the service or are carrying a heavy burden,
we invite you to come to the prayer room in the north chapel of the sanctuary.*

You will be met there by caring individuals who will pray specifically for you and your need.

In addition, there is a prayer box in the narthex for prayers you wish to keep private.

Anything put in that box will be read and prayed for only by our co-pastors.

Why Do We Receive Communion?

Why is Communion such an important act of worship for us? Communion, like baptism, is a sacrament; an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace. Holy Communion is a mystery in many ways, but we know that God is present with us in it, and we practice it because it is ordained by Jesus (1 Corinthians 11: 23-26). Holy Communion is a sacrament that remembers our past, celebrates the present, and anticipates our future.

Since the early church began, Christians have gathered to celebrate Holy Communion. The meal is a remembrance of Jesus' last supper (the Passover) with his disciples on the night before he died (Matthew 26: 26-28). We practice Holy Communion in order that we might remember the saving power of Jesus' death and resurrection; the power of the cross and the ultimate love of the Father. We do this in remembrance of Him.

When we participate in Holy Communion, not only do we remember the past, but we celebrate the present. Another name for Holy Communion is Eucharist, which means, quite literally, "giving thanks". We give thanks to God that, through Communion at God's table, we share and grow in faith. We celebrate the very real presence of Jesus among us as we commune.

And finally, Holy Communion also points us to our future with God. In Matthew 22, Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a great party. All are welcome, and all are invited! It sounds like a really marvelous party, beyond what we can ever begin to imagine or dream. Communion is a foretaste of that most marvelous party. No matter how old you are or how much you know about your faith, Christ loves you because you are a child of God, a member of the body of Christ and the family of faith. All are welcome at the Table of the Lord.

Grace Flows Down

Christy Nockels



A - maz - ing grace

How sweet the sound



A - maz - ing love

now flow - ing down



From hands and feet

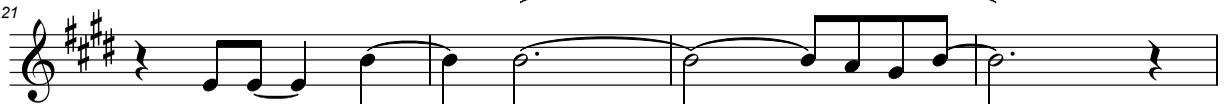
that were nailed to the tree



as grace flows down and co - vers me



It co - vers me



It co - vers me



It co - vers me

and co - vers me

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights,
you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant,
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still, small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from our sin,
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and cup.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church! We're glad you're here.

Please let us know of your presence with us using the red booklets at the ends of the pews.

We welcome you and invite you to stay for fellowship downstairs in the parlors after the service.

For your prayers this week: **Mary Chase-Ziolek and family**, mourning the passing of her brother, James Chase Jr., after a four-year battle with cancer; **Rosemary Slaughter**, undergoing therapy on her wrist; Dawn and Ted Helwig's grandson **Elijah Peterman**, hospitalized with unidentified pain and awaiting treatment options; **Kristen Westphal**, whose mother is recovering from hip surgery, and whose father has been put on hospice care; **the Covenant Church in Congo**, struggling over leadership and anticipating election for church officials; **the Kim family**, in Schaumburg to avoid contracting the coronavirus; **baby Elsie**, unborn child of James and Rachel Ventress, due in March and experiencing complications; **Dick Lucco**, continuing cancer treatment; **Bob Thornbloom**, on hospice care; Barb Goode's cousin **David Jeffery**, on disability due to further decline caused by ALS

Statistics for Sunday, February 23

Worship: 145

Childcare: 15

Friendship Center Items: 11

Come *gather* with us for dinner this Wednesday!

All are invited to dinner in the parlors at 5:30, followed by a time of singing and fellowship. After that, the schedule is as follows:

6-7 pm: Open Gym
Open Studio

7-8:30 pm: Middle-school Youth Group

7:15 pm: Immerse Bible Study

Please RSVP by writing "gather" and indicating the number to attend after your name in the red booklet, via the link provided in the General Church Information email, or by contacting the church office by 4:30 pm on Tuesday.

Assisted listening devices are available in the narthex for those who would benefit from their use during the service. The greeters are available to assist you in finding or using these devices.

Childcare is available for babies (newborn to walking) on the main level across from the south chapel and for toddlers and younger children (walking to age 5) on the lower level off the south corridor. Children are welcome in our services, but we recognize that sometimes it's easier for them (and their parents) if they can run and play.

Today, as on each Communion Sunday, a benevolence offering will be received following the service. Members of the Board of Deacons will be at the doors to receive your gifts to the Benevolence Fund. Those funds are most often used to help care for our neighbors in crisis; those who come through our doors and need assistance. As we have worked to

be the best stewards of these funds, a policy change has taken place, so that we now only request funds to purchase gift cards every other month. This month, the funds received will be used to purchase books for Hibbard Elementary School that are representative of their diverse student population. We thank you for your generosity!

The Narthex, our monthly newsletter, is available in the parlors today. This month's issue is in color to highlight our new church logo and the possibilities of use with different color schemes. Please help save the church on postage and pick up your copy today. Thank you!

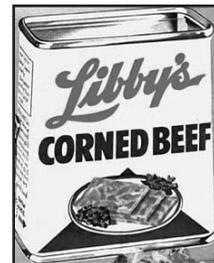


Today begins week 9 of Heartwalking the Neighborhood: Please be in prayer for the 5200 block of north Kimball (west side) and 3400 block of north Foster. If you would like to participate in this year-long prayer opportunity, booklets are available in the narthex and the church office.

You are invited to return this evening at 6 pm for a contemplative Lenten worship service in the south chapel. We will hold these services each Sunday in Lent. Join us for a time of quiet prayer, music, singing, and communion. Come and worship as we make our way toward the cross.

Join us on Saturday, March 7, for our annual Camping Breakfast Fundraiser! Put on a camp shirt or hat, grab a friend, and come to the parlors between 8 and 11 am for some delicious food, a chance to share and hear camp stories, and the opportunity to donate toward camping scholarships. All funds received on March 7 will go toward scholarships for kids in our church and community who want to go to summer or winter camps.

All are invited to join us on Sunday, March 15, for a corned beef and cabbage lunch following the 10:30 am worship service. Come for a time of fellowship and great food! All are welcome, but ***RSVPs are absolutely necessary***. Please contact Ann-Marie in the church office at afrisk@npcovenant.org or (773) 463-0055 by Tuesday, March 10, to reserve your spot!



All ages are welcome to attend Intergenerational Sunday School on March 29 in the parlors. We'll begin with breakfast at 9 am, followed by a time of learning and laughing together across the generations! We hope to see you there!



We are in need of childcare volunteers for the following dates:

- March 8: 1 for Nursery and 1 for Toddler Room
- March 15: 1 for Nursery and 2 for Toddler Room
- March 22: 2 for Nursery and 1 for Toddler Room
- March 29: 2 for Nursery and 2 for Toddler Room

To sign up to serve in this ministry or if you have questions, please contact Sue Anderson at suearn@sbcglobal.net or (773) 972-9315 or Marti Hindaileh at mort121753@gmail.com or (773) 960-4936.

Join Us for Adult Formation: Please join us at 9:15 am in the parlors on the lower level for a time of discussion. The coffee lounge opens at 9, so you can grab a cup of coffee, tea, or hot cocoa, if you like, before the conversation begins. On Sunday, March 8, Joan Zetterlund will share about her career in *Caritas*, a word from Latin often translated as *love and charity*. Joan's session will be part of an ongoing series on relating our faith to our career. Please contact Carol Schlensker at cmschlensker@yahoo.com if you are interested in sharing with others about how you live out your faith in your career.

The texts for today's choral anthem and choral benediction are as follows:

Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness,
make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou only that makes me dwell in safety.

God Be in My Head

Old English Prayer, arr. John Rutter

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in mine heart and in my thinking.
God be at my end and in my departing.

Volunteers Needed on Wednesday Nights: Each Wednesday night during the school year, we open up our space to neighborhood students for Open Gym and Open Studio from 6 to 7 pm. This is a unique opportunity we have where students can come hang out and connect with us. Over the years, we have seen many students come through our doors who have then become involved in youth group or in other ways with our church. Currently, we average 50 students a week for the *gather* meal at 5:30, who then stay for the different programs we offer. With such a large number of students come unique challenges in ensuring that the night is safe for everyone involved. We are looking for three to five more people who would be interested in helping facilitate this program. Help is needed in chaperoning the activity areas, assisting at the check-in desk, and most important, being present to ensure the students



are where they need to be and doing what they are supposed to be doing. If we have more hands and eyes during this program, the night will be fun and safe for everyone involved. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Cody at ctaylor@npcovenant.org. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity.

Church Calendar This Week

The calendar is available online at www.npcovenant.org/calendar and is updated as changes occur.

Monday, March 2

9:15 am	Monday Morning Women's Bible Study (Staff Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
4 pm	Tutoring (Parlors)
4:30 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Large Conference Room)

Tuesday, March 3

7 am	Men's Bible Study (Staff Conference Room)
4:15 pm	Chicago Children's Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:30 pm	Powerstrikers Soccer Practice (Gym)

Wednesday, March 4

10 am	Women's Bible Study (Large Conference Room)
3:15 pm	Von Steuben Girls' Basketball Practice (Gym)
5:30 pm	<i>gather</i> Meal (Parlors)
6 pm	Open Gym (Gym)
6 pm	Open Studio (Middle-school Youth Room)
7 pm	Middle-school Youth Group (Middle-school Youth Room)
7:15 pm	Immerse Bible Study (Nursery)

Thursday, March 5

4:15 pm	Chicago Children's Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5 pm	Clauson Soccer Practice (Gym)
6:30 pm	Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary Side Balcony)
7:45 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Friday, March 6

10 am	Prayer Gathering (North Room)
4:30 pm	Chi-town Huskies Basketball Practice (Gym)

Saturday, March 7

8 am	Camping Breakfast Fundraiser (Parlors)
8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
8 am	S-Anon (Large Conference Room)
3 pm	Clauson Soccer Practice (Gym)

Sunday, March 8 - Second Sunday in Lent

9 am	Sunday School and Confirmation (Various Rooms)
9:15 am	Adult Sunday School (Parlors)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
6 pm	Lenten Contemplative Service (South Chapel)
7 pm	High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)

We welcome all people to begin or deepen their relationship with Christ through worship and study. We invite all believers to fully participate in the life and ministry of our church as members, leaders, and lay staff. We celebrate the gifts and presence of diverse Christians among us—whether those differences be race, ethnicity, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or socioeconomic status. We are blessed by our diversity and are unified in Christ.

Church Staff

Jeff Hunter, Co-pastor
jhunter@npcovenant.org, ext. 525

Libby Piotrowski, Co-pastor
lp Piotrowski@npcovenant.org, ext. 515

To reach both Jeff and Libby, please use copastors@npcovenant.org or ext. 510.

Ann-Marie O. Frisk, Church Administrator
afrisk@npcovenant.org, ext. 500

Brian Ward, Music Ministry Coordinator/Organist
bward@npcovenant.org

Fran Fostey, Bookkeeper
operations@npcovenant.org, ext. 505

Dominic German, Chancel Choir Director
dgerman@npcovenant.org

Cody Taylor, Youth Pastor
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Carol Olfelt, Chancel Handbell Choir Director
colfelt@npcovenant.org

Christian Schuetz, Custodian
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

North Park Church Cooperative Preschool

www.nppreschool.com • (773) 463-0055, ext. 520 • preschool@npcovenant.org

Jennifer Lazik, Director/Lead Teacher

Lyndsey Wellner, Teacher/Assistant Teacher

Jenny Glazier, Assistant Teacher

The North Park Friendship Center

3448 West Foster Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625

www.friendshipcenterchicago.org • (773) 267-8395 • npfc@friendshipcenterchicago.org

Dean Morris, Director of Pantry Operations

Missionaries We Support

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo
James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo, Latin America
Peter and Anna Kim, East Asia

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