

HOPE



DECEMBER 3, 2023  
+ THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT +

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PRELUDE

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
J.S. Bach  
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

\* OPENING HYMN (Insert)

My Soul Cries Out

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

High-school Youth Group

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come.” (Mark 13:35)

**We wait as people surprised again and again by God, who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.**

Let us pray: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that, even now, God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

*The first candle is lit.*

*We sing verse 1 of “One Candle Is Lit”, found on an insert.*

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

\* Gospel Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Lynn Pearson, Reader

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

CHORAL ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come  
Paul O. Manz  
Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jeff Hunter

MESSAGE

Gordon Battles

\* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Days of Elijah  
Robin Mark

1996 Song Solutions Daybreak (Admin. by Song Solutions [www.songsolutions.org](http://www.songsolutions.org))

Led by Emma Hunter, Anders Johnson, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Sharing in the Elements

Communion Music

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord  
Donald Busarow

Come, Risen Lord  
Wayne Barlowe

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus  
Rowland Hugh Prichard

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 124

O Promised One of Israel

\* BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You  
Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Jubilate  
Gordon Young

*\* Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

# One Candle is Lit

Mary Anne Parrott

William J. Kirkpatrick

*Allegro* (♩ = 120)



Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn foHlows



night, our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the



light. Sal - va - tion draw near us, our vi - sion en -



gage. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.

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# Days of Elijah

Robin Mark



These are the days of E - li - jah, de - clar - ing the Word of the Lord. And  
These are the days of E - zek - iel, the dry bones be - com - ing as flesh. And



these are the days of Your ser - vant, Mo - ses, right - eous - ness be - ing re - stored. And  
these are the days of Your ser - vant, Da - vid, re - build - ing the tem - ple of praise. And



though these are days of great tri - als of fam - ine and dark - ness and sword, still  
these are the days of the har - vest. The fields are white in the world, and



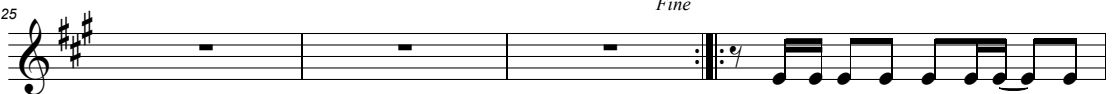
we are the voice in the de - sert, cry - ing "Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord." Be - hold He  
we are the la - bor - ers in Your vine - yard de - clar - ing the Word of the Lord.



comes rid - ing on the clouds shin - ing like the sun at the trum - pet call. Lift your



voice, it's the year of Ju - bi - lee, and out of Zi - on's hill sal - va - tion comes



*Fine*

There is no God like Je - ho - vah,

*D.S. al Fine*



there is no God like Je - ho - vah. There is no God like Je - ho - vah, there is no God like Je - ho - vah.

# Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all crea-tures

here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host;

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711  
 MUSIC: attrib. Louis Bourgeois, c.1510-c.1561; arr. *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

L.M.  
 OLD 100th (alt. rhythm)



## O Promised One of Israel

1 O prom-ised one of Is - ra - el by proph-ets long fore -  
 2 In si - lent suf - f'ring some a - wait your reign of jus - tice  
 3 Cre - a - tion stands a - lert and tense to see your sov - 'reign

told, we wait in ur - gen - cy and hope to  
 here, while oth - ers, dulled by wealth and ease, can  
 pow'r. You choose to come a ti - ny child re -

see God's will un - fold. The dark of night and  
 not ex - plain their fear. When proph - ets spoke and  
 vealed this day and hour. O grant us pa - tience

cold pre - dawn a - rouse our anx - ious fears.  
 Ma - ry sang of ta - bles o - ver - turned,  
 to re - ceive with - out pre - tense or pride

ADVENT: COMING

Help us to see the light a - head through tri - als, doubts, and tears.  
dare we ad - mit, in trem - bling awe, our hearts with - in us burned?  
the gift of God's re - deem - ing grace: a Sav - ior by our side.

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is a vocal line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, featuring a melody with eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is a piano accompaniment in the same key and time, using a block-chord style with chords and moving bass lines. The lyrics are placed between the two staves, with vertical lines connecting the words to the corresponding notes in the vocal line.

# *Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!*

## *We're glad you're here.*

### *For your prayers this week:*

- **Jim Hosek and Laurie Thorpe, Trevor and Kevin**, as Jim has been placed on hospice care
- **Ted Helwig**, improving and started formal cardiac rehab last week
- **Kari Lindholm-Johnson**, receiving encouraging reports as she goes through chemo
- Jon Boyd's father, **Bill Boyd**, home again, receiving good care, and grateful for your prayers
- Janice Finney's brother-in-law, **Tim Rohr**, awaiting a bone marrow transplant
- **Patty Rasmussen and Larry Anderson and family**, mourning the loss of their daughter Magdalena
- **Jan, Travis, and Jess Klingberg**, mourning the passing of their husband and father 'Don
- **for peace in the conflict** in the Middle East

### Praying for Our Neighborhood in 2023

Join us this week, as we pray for those in our community whose last names begin with...



**Thank you to Kristen Hunter**, who has designed our Advent season bulletin covers this year!

**Childcare is available** in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) for the full duration of the worship service for any wee ones ages 1 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

**If you have prayer requests to be shared confidentially** with the pastors, there is a prayer box located in the narthex, as well as slips of paper and a pen in the box's drawer.

**From the Missions Committee:** We as a church support five missionary couples throughout the year via a percentage of general fund donations. Now it is time to remember these missionary servants with a special Christmas gift. To make a special donation, write "missionary gift" in the memo line on your check or select "Missionary Gift" from the drop-down menu [online](#). The deadline for Christmas gifts is Sunday, December 17. Thank you!

**Please remain in the sanctuary after worship today for a brief congregational meeting** to vote on the division of the Employee Retention Credit monies we received over the summer, and which we discussed at a town hall meeting on November 19. All are welcome to stay, but only church members are able to cast votes.

**The December issue of *The Narthex***, our monthly newsletter, was emailed out this past Friday, and printed copies are available in the narthex for those who prefer to have one in hand. If you would like to be added to the email distribution list, please reach out to Ann-Marie Frisk in the church office.

**We invite you to join us for a service we call Blue Christmas**, on Tuesday, December 5, at 7 pm in our south chapel. Blue Christmas is a service centered on quiet reflection and meditation. A time to recognize that it is sometimes difficult to celebrate in the midst of sorrow and pain. It is also a time to be reminded that we have a God who journeys with us into the deepest valleys; who cries and mourns with us and loves us more than we could ever imagine. So come. Come to lay down your burdens.

**Join us on Sunday, December 17, for a Service of Lessons and Carols.** During the 10:30 am worship time, we will hear the story of the birth of Jesus in word and song. Our special guests will be Uniting Voices Chicago. O come, let us adore him!

**We have two upcoming opportunities** for service for North Park members and friends:

1) to develop the job description for the new pastoral position that is called for by our Building with Faithfulness campaign. We hope to present the job description to the congregation for approval in spring 2024.

2) to search for our next Chancel Choir director. If you would like to serve in either of these ways, please contact [Joel Olfelt](#), [Pastor Jeff Hunter](#), or [Pastor Libby Piotrowski](#) by December 17.

**Last call for offering envelopes for 2024!** If you are not currently on our list to receive a box of envelopes but would like to be, please let Ann-Marie know by tomorrow, December 4. And if you are currently on our list but would rather not be because you give online, please let her know that, too!

**Get your Swedish on and help out with Julotta!** Our 6:30 am Christmas morning Julotta service is early, yes, but it's a lovely time of worship followed by fellowship over cardamom bread, clementines, and cookies. But we need some help to make it happen! If you are willing and able to come to church during the day on Friday, December 22, to help set up, or if you are willing and able to serve and/or clean up on Christmas morning, please reach out to [Pastor Libby](#). *Tack så mycket!* (Thanks so much!)

**Our tutoring program is growing steadily!** We are in need of one more permanent tutor starting Monday, December 4, and two substitute tutors for December 18. Tutoring meets in the church parlors on Mondays from 4 to 5:30 pm, and an elementary school student needs you! Please consider this and contact Christine Olfelt at 312-914-7712 if you can help in either of these ways.

**Volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis** for childcare and hospitality! If you're able to help out in the toddler room or by serving refreshments, please sign up for a Sunday or two [using this form](#).

**The North River Commission is appreciative of the donations received** for migrants coming to our area. They are taking a break from receiving items until after the Christmas holiday. We will let you know when they start up again, as well as where donations can be brought in the meantime.

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

**E'en So, Lord Jesus**

*Paul O. Manz*

Peace be to you, and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,  
who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,  
who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein.

Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon.

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;  
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

**The Lord Bless You and Keep You**

*Peter C. Lutkin*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

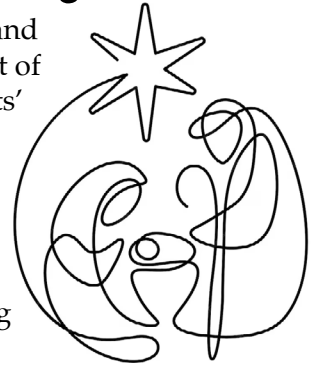
The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. Amen.

# 2023 Christmas Greetings

You are invited to extend Christmas greetings to the members and friends of North Park Covenant Church by donating an amount of your choice, which will go toward the School of Restorative Arts' Circle Keeping program.

The Circle Keeping program is a restorative justice practice that offers tools and space for building community, sharing grief, and finding creative solutions to conflict. As the SRA partners with Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation to bring this training to its students and alumni, North Park Covenant Church is invited to support the church inside as they seek to be equipped in putting their faith into practice in restorative and transformative ways.



You are also welcome to share your own Christmas letter with the church family by bringing a copy to the church office for display in the parlors.

.....  
Please add my/our name/s to the Christmas Greetings insert, which will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17. The deadline for turning in a greeting is Monday, December 11.

Check amount included:                   \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash amount included:                   \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Online amount:                            \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Go to [www.npcovenant.org/give](http://www.npcovenant.org/give) and select "Christmas Greetings" from the drop-down menu.

Your name/s, as you would like it/them listed in the bulletin (required):

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Phone

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Email

*Please place this form and your  
payment in the offering plate  
or bring them to the church office.*

## The Church Calendar This Week

The calendar is available online at [www.npcovenant.org/calendar](http://www.npcovenant.org/calendar) and is updated as changes occur.

### *Monday, December 4*

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid, Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
4:20 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (via Zoom)

### *Tuesday, December 5*

8 am	Men's Bible Study (Hybrid, Large Conference Room)
4 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7 pm	Blue Christmas Worship Service (South Chapel)

### *Wednesday, December 6*

10 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid, Large Conference Room)
4:30 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
6 pm	Gather Dinner (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)
6:30 pm	Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7 pm	Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7:30 pm	Adult Bible Study (Large Conference Room)

### *Thursday, December 7*

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5 pm	George Soccer Practice
8:15 pm	Swanson Basketball (Gym)

### *Friday, December 8*

1 pm	Prayer Gathering (North Room)
4:30 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)

### *Saturday, December 9*

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
11 am	BravoStudio Recital (Sanctuary)
12 pm	Interscriptural Readings Group (Large Conference Room)

### *Sunday, December 10 - The Second Sunday of Advent*

9 am	Confirmation (Large Conference Room)
9:15 am	Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
9:15 am	Adult Formation (Parlors)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
12 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal (Junior Chapel)
7 pm	High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)

**North Park Covenant  
Church Staff**

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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.*

Jeanette Mottl, Director of Youth Ministry  
jmottl@npcovenant.org

Brian Ward, Music Ministry Coordinator/Organist  
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Dominic German, Director, Chancel Choir and  
Chancel Handbell Choir  
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Joline Paska, Treasurer  
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Christian Schuetz, Custodian  
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

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

**North Park Church  
Cooperative Preschool**

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Becky Edwards  
Administrative Director

Lyndsey Wellner  
Head Teacher/Educational Director

Jennifer Glazier  
Assistant Teacher

(773) 463-0055, ext. 520  
preschool@npcovenant.org  
www.npcovenant.org/npccp

**The Friendship Center**

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2711 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Justin Block  
Executive Director  
justin@friendshipcenterchicago.org

(773) 907-6338  
info@friendshipcenterchicago.org  
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

**Missionaries We Support**

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John and Letha Kerl,  
Field Representatives for Europe

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,  
Latin America

**Welcome Statement**

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*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.*