



PEACE

DECEMBER 10, 2023
+ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT +

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PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
arr. Roger C. Wilson
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
125th-anniversary Video

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter
Generational Perspectives

CHORAL INTROIT

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (135, verses 1 and 2)
Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

* OPENING CONGREGATIONAL SONGS

Shepherd
Bart Millard, David Crowder, Hank Bentley, Mia Fieldes

Agnus Dei
Michael W. Smith

Led by Dominic German, Anders Johnson, Linnea Olfelt, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Steve and Joline Paska

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." (Isaiah 40:1) We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Let us pray: These candles are lit as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

The second candle is lit.

We sing verse 2 of "One Candle Is Lit", found on an insert.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Advent
David Davenport

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Dave Holmes, Reader

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

* COMING TO THE PRAYER TREE

*All are invited to write their prayers on the paper leaves provided
and bring them forward to place on the prayer tree during the hymn of response.*

* Hymn of Response 131

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

PASTORAL PRAYER

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

*The Trustees will come around at this time to receive physical offerings.
Giving online at any time is also an option at www.npcovenant.org/give.*

Offertory

He Shall Feed His Flock
G.F. Handel

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 133

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
arr. Terry Osman

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

Shepherd

David Crowder

The Lord, my por - tion I shall not want. The Lord, my com - fort I shall not fear. The Lord, my heal - er I stand se - cure. The Lord, my heal - er I stand se - cure.

4 I shall not fear. Yea, though I walk through the val - ley low, yea, though the path gets steep, Sure-ly good - ness will fol - low me, e - every pro - promise will be

8 Third time, back to "Surely goodness"

12 light to my feet. When my heart is prone to wan - der - ing, Je - sus, You shep - herd

16 1. me. 2. me, and I will dwell for all my days in the

20 shad - ow of Your re - lent - less grace. And I will dwell for

23 all my days in Your pre - sence, Your pre - sence. Sure - ly

D.S. al Fine

Agnus Dei

Michael W. Smith

A - lle - lu - ia, - A - lle -

lu - ia for our Lord God Al-migh - ty reigns

A - lle - lu - ia Ho -

ly Ho - ly Are You

Lord God - al - migh - ty Wor-thy is the

Lamb Wor-thy is the Lamb for You are Ho -

Lamb A - - men.

CCLI # 626713

One Candle is Lit

Mary Anne Parrott

William J. Kirkpatrick

Allegro (♩ = 120)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.'

Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre -

pare for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to

care. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war

cease. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

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Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

131

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; make the rough - er plac - es plain,

com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
 bid - ding all to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his Word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

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

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows the vocal line with lyrics underneath. The bass staff continues the harmonic support.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a double bar line. The bass staff also concludes with a double bar line.

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

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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry 133

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Let ev - 'ry heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the
 3 For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the
 5 To you, O Christ, all prais - es be, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh: a - wake and lis - ten
 way for God with - in, and so pre - pare to
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 fall - en sin - ner stand; shine out, and let your
 sets your peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 be the home where such a might - y guest may come.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more!

WORDS: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749, tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.
 MUSIC: Trier manuscript, fifteenth century; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621;
 arr. George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

L.M.
 PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

An alternate harmonization can be found at 105, 241.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **Laurie Thorpe, Trevor and Kevin Hosek**, mourning the passing of Jim last Sunday
- **Kari Lindholm-Johnson**, feeling encouraged by good 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
- **for peace in the conflict** in the Middle East

Missionary Prayer Spotlight

Update from James and Rachel Ventress in Nome, Alaska: The Christmas packages have arrived safe and sound, and the family opened the box labeled as Advent items. A fundraising auction was held to help a local family purchase a mobility van so they can take their wheelchair-bound son Riyli on outings and to school. He is now being home-schooled but really needs social interaction to alleviate depression he is feeling. Church members donated \$2,743, and a Facebook auction was held in late November. The total raised from the auction is not yet known. Finally, James will be in Chicago for Midwinter! He plans to worship with us on Sunday, January 21.

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 squirm. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

Thanks to Kristen Hunter for designing our Advent and Christmas bulletin covers this year!

In the pew racks today you will find two small envelopes, stamped to indicate two special gift opportunities we provide this time of year. The off-white envelope is there should you wish to give a donation to be divided among the missionaries we support, and the green envelope is there should you wish to give a monetary gift to our staff. Both of these options are available through www.npcovenant.org/give, as well. Thank you for your generosity!

Staff away: Ann-Marie will be out of the office on Tuesday, December 12.

Bible journaling each Sunday in Advent: Join Kristen Hunter each Sunday morning in Advent at 9:15 am in the art room (lower level south of the coffee lounge) to journal through the Advent texts and beyond. Bring a Bible and journal, or make a journal when you arrive. Art supplies will be provided.

Praying for Our Neighborhood in 2023

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



Treasurer Update: Whether you put an envelope or a check in the offering plate on Sunday morning, you give online on a regular or period basis, or you make a gift to NPCC once a year, we appreciate your gift. Together we have given \$565,623 to the general fund in 2023 with \$55,377 more needed to meet the 2023 budget. Thank you for your gift, which supports the ministries of the church for God's glory and neighbors' good.

It's time to close the time capsule! As part of our Gather dinner on Wednesday, December 20, we will close the time capsule we've been compiling in this 125th-anniversary year. If you'd like to be reminded what's inside before that happens, come to Gather on December 13, and we'll take a look. And if you can think of anything else that should be included before we close it up for the next 50 years, now's the time to say something!

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 coffee bread, clemantines, and cookies. But we need 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!)

Hey, college students! Every Sunday after church, lunch is available for you directly after worship in the large conference room (lower level, down the hall from the parlors). Let us know if you want to come for some non-cafeteria food and community! Reach out to Linnea Olfelt at 773-397-3468 or lmolfelt@gmail.com with questions or if you want to come!

The text for today's choral anthem is as follows:

Advent

David Davenport

Come again, Emanuel, as your Advent draws us near.
Promised One, O Israel, drive away all doubt and fear.
Come, Emanuel.

Once you came on a wintry night, born a Child but yet a King.
Lead us to your heav'nly Light, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
Come, Emanuel. Oh come, Emanuel.

Comfort all who come to Thee, fill our lives with hope and love.
Reign in us forevermore, lift our thoughts to you above.
Come again, Emanuel, we are ready to receive.
We prepare our hearts for you. We believe! Yes, we believe!
Come, Emanuel!

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, December 11

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 (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, December 12

8 am	Men's Bible Study (Hybrid, Large Conference Room)
4 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
5 pm	Board of Community Concern Meeting (via Zoom)
6 pm	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
7 pm	Board of Deacons Meeting (Hybrid/Staff Conference Room)
7 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting (Large Conference Room)
7:30 pm	Board of Christian Formation Meeting (Hybrid/Parlors)

Wednesday, December 13

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 14

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

Friday, December 15

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

Saturday, December 16

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
10:30 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, December 17 - The Third 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)
9:15 am	Advent Art Journaling (Art Room)
10:30 am	Worship: A Service of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)
7 pm	High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)

We Invite You to Our Upcoming Advent and Christmas Worship Services!



**Sunday, December 17, 10:30 am: The Third Sunday of Advent—
A Service of Lessons & Carols**

Come hear the story of the birth of Jesus in word and song and stay for a special coffee hour afterward. Our guests will be Uniting Voices Chicago—Albany Park. O come, let us adore him!

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 am: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24, 5 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This whole-family celebration of Christmas will center on singing Christmas carols together and reading a Christmas story with all the children, and will close with a candlelit singing of Silent Night.

Monday, December 25, 6:30 am: Julotta Worship Service and Swedish Fika

Our traditional Swedish Christmas morning service (held mostly in English with a little Swedish thrown in), Julotta begins at 6:30 am. It's a little goofy, we know. But it's a good goofy—trust us! We invite you to join us for worship, followed by coffee and a continental breakfast (the Swedes call it fika).

Reservations are required for the breakfast so we can plan ahead and safely seat those who are there. Please RSVP using this QR code by Monday, December 18. Thank you!



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, 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 is Monday, December 11.

Check amount included: \$ _____

Cash amount included: \$ _____

Online amount: \$ _____

Select "Christmas Greetings" from the drop-down menu.

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

Phone

Email

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

North Park Covenant

Church Staff

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Missionaries We Support

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

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.

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