



DECEMBER 24, 2023
+ THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT +

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PRELUDE

Vom Himmel Hoch, Da Komm Ich Her
(From Heaven High, I Come Below)
J.S. Bach
Sunwoo Lee, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski

CHORAL INTROIT

O Promised One of Israel (124, verse 1)
Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Wargaski Family

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sang to Elizabeth:

"My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name." (Luke 1:46-49)

We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

Let us pray: These candles are lit as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

The fourth candle is lit.

We sing verse 4 of "One Candle Is Lit", found on an insert.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN 123

O How Shall I Receive You

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Dave Dawson, Reader

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Katherine K. Davis

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Behold

David Kauffman

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Led by Dominic German, Emma Hunter,

Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson, and Sunwoo Lee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

What Child Is This?

Paul Manz

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 122

O Zion, Acclaim Your Redeemer!

All sing verses 1 and 5, Women only - verse 2, Choir only - verse 3, Men only - verse 4.

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Paul Manz

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



Icon painted by Kari Lindholm-Johnson

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One Candle Is Lit

Mary Anne Parrott

William J. Kirkpatrick

Allegro (♩ = 120)



Come, wan-der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play, where



e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day, a



babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes. One



can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.

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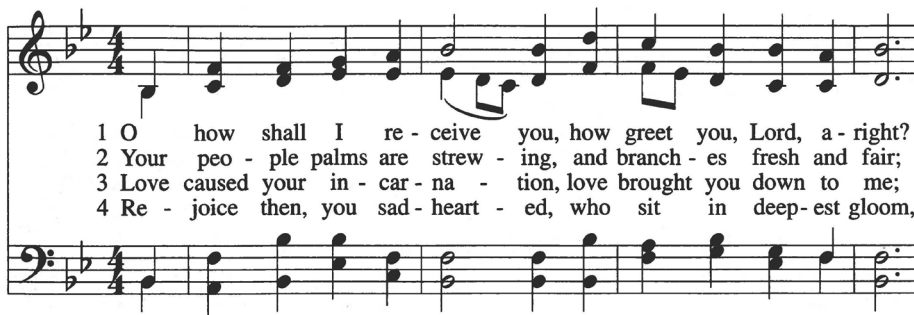
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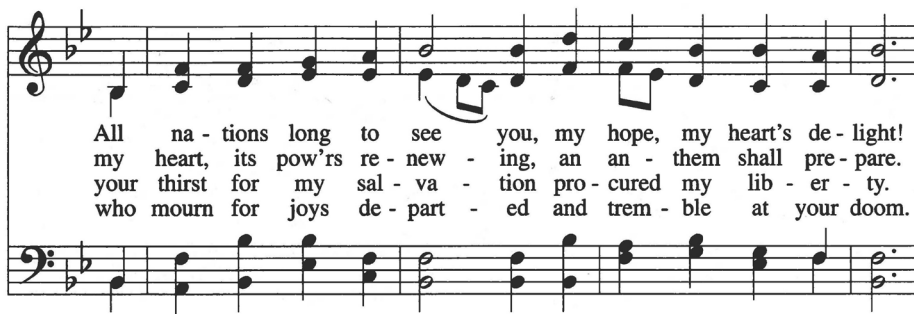
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O How Shall I Receive You

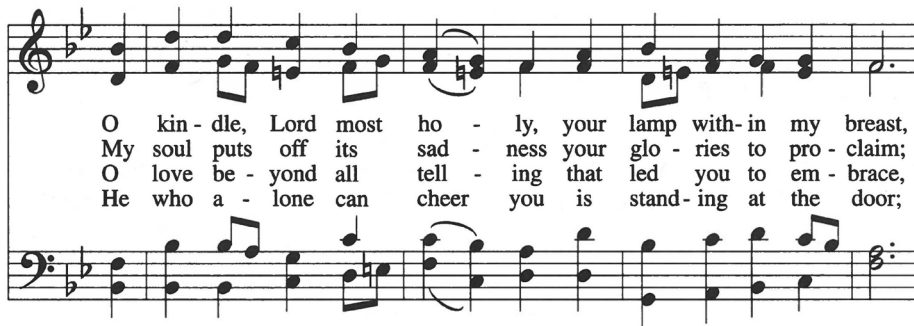
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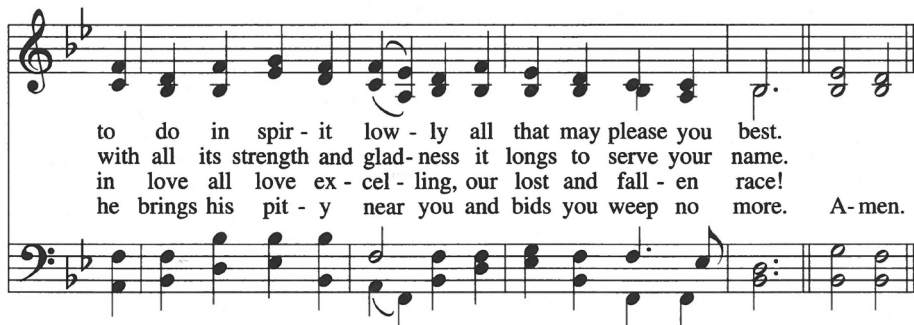
1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how greet you, Lord, a - right?
 2 Your peo - ple palms are strew - ing, and branch - es fresh and fair;
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion, love brought you down to me;
 4 Re - joice then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



All na - tions long to see you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 my heart, its pow'rs re - new - ing, an an - them shall pre - pare.
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn for joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast,
 My soul puts off its sad - ness your glo - ries to pro - claim;
 O love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace,
 He who a - lone can cheer you is stand - ing at the door;



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 with all its strength and glad - ness it longs to serve your name.
 in love all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
 he brings his pit - y near you and bids you weep no more. A - men.

Behold

David Kauffman



Be - hold, be - hold the



migh - ty one has done great things for me. Be - hold, be - hold the



migh-ty one has done great things for me. and Ho - ly is Your name and



Ho - ly is Your name. My soul ex - alts You, be - hold my Lord whose



mer - cy lies on me. 1. My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord. My



spir - it re - joic es in my Sav - iour. He looks at me with kind - ness as with ho - ly eyes of blind - ness, and



all will call me bles - sed. Be me. 2. Com - pas - sion in - hab - its those who




fear Him. He has done great deeds with His arms. Scat - tered the proud.


33  *ff*
Rul-ers are brought down, and He has lift - ed the hum-ble. Be - hold. Be -


37 
hold. The migh-ty one has done great things for me. Be - hold. Be -

41 
hold. The migh-ty one has done great things for me, and Ho - ly is Your

45 
name and Ho - ly is Your name. My soul ex -alts You. Be -

49 *Fine* 
hold my Lord whose mer - cy lies on me. 3.He has filled the hun-gry with good

53 
things and sent a-way the self-ish emp-ty hand - ed He has sent his ser - vant in re -

57 *D.S. al Fine* 
mem - brance of his mer - cy, and He has kept His pro - mise. Be

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 Zion, Acclaim Your Redeemer!

1 O Zi-on, ac-claim your Re-deem-er! Je-ru-sa-lem, wel-come your King!
 2 He comes from the joys of the a-ges, he leaves his do-min-ion sub-lime;
 3 He comes as a ran-som most ho-ly, he dies on the cross for the world;
 4 He comes from the tomb as a vic-tor, the shad-ows of death clear a-way;
 5 He comes to the sor-row-ing spir-it and life is re-newed by his hand;

Strew palms on the way for the Sav-ior, his prais-es ex-ul-tant-ly sing.
 from glo-ry to Beth-le-hem's man-ger he comes in the full-ness of time.
 re-demp-tion from sin is ac-com-plished, his ban-ner of light is un-furled.
 the slum-ber-ing saints are a-wak-ened, a-roused from their sleep in the clay.
 he comes to es-tab-lish a King-dom that shall thro' e-ter-ni-ty stand.

Refrain

Re-joice! Re-joice! Re-joice in your Sav-ior and King!

Re-joice! Re-joice! Ac-claim him your Sav-ior and King!

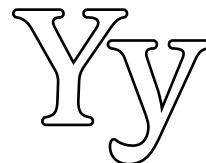
Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online! *We're glad you're here.*

For your prayers this week:

- **Laurie Thorpe, Trevor and Kevin Hosek**, mourning the passing of Jim on December 3
- **Kari Lindholm-Johnson**, recuperating after surgery this past Thursday
- **Janice Finney**, anticipating surgery on her spine on January 4
- **David Frisk**, recovering after breaking three ribs
- Janice Finney's brother-in-law, **Tim Rohr**, awaiting a bone marrow transplant
- **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...



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.

Thank you to Kristen Hunter for creating our Advent and Christmas bulletin covers this year!

The January issue of *The Narthex*, our monthly newsletter, was emailed out this past Friday, and paper copies are available for pick-up in the narthex and the parlors.

We welcome you back this evening at 5 pm for a candlelight service for the whole family. And tomorrow morning, all are invited to a traditional Julotta service (mostly in English with a little Swedish thrown in) at 6:30 am. Come celebrate the birth of the Christ Child!

Bakers are needed to make Rice Krispie treats or cookies for Jim Hosek's memorial service reception December 30. Contact Mary or Keith Chase-Ziolek 773-960-5550 or marychaseziolek@yahoo.com

From the Stewardship Committee: Each year, the North Park Covenant Church (NPCC) Budget Committee plans for the church's operations in the coming year. The General Fund is our broadest designation of income, and it is used to pay for the day-to-day expenses and operations of our church. The General Fund is separate from specific projects (e.g. the Building with Faithfulness campaign) and one-time requests (e.g. staff gift), and as we plan, your pledge is helpful. We believe that God is at work in and through this church, and we invite you to join us in making a promise to support the church in 2024. You may use [use this online pledge form](#) or you may use a paper pledge card, available on Sundays and during the week. We ask that you complete your pledge and notification on or before Sunday, December 31. The Stewardship Committee welcomes any questions you may have!

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

- 6:30 am Julotta (Sanctuary)
7:30 am Julotta Fika (for those who registered, Parlors)

Tuesday, December 26

- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Thursday, December 28

- 8:15 pm Swanson Basketball (Gym)

Saturday, December 30

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
10 am Hosek Memorial Service/Inurnment (Sanctuary/Columbarium)
11:30 am Hosek Reception (Parlors)

Sunday, December 31

- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

The church office will be closed from Monday, December 25, through Tuesday, January 2. If you are in need of pastoral care during that week, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the co-pastors.

North Park Covenant

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Letha Kerl,
Field Representative 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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