

**NORTH PARK**  
**COVENANT CHURCH**

DECEMBER 31, 2023  
+ THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS +

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PRELUDE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (188)  
arr. Gordon Young  
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

Our Final 125th-anniversary Video: I Imagine

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

**He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

**Praise the Lord!**

\* OPENING HYMN 157

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

\* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887 (Using *sims*)

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

\* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

For All That You Have Done

Rend Collective

Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Led by Emma Hunter, Jeff Hunter, Kristen Hunter, Linnea Olfelt, and Brian Ward

CELEBRATION IN SONG AND PRAYER

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Prayer

Jeff Hunter

Responsive Carol 155

While by Our Sheep

Scripture Reading  
Prayer of Examen (Turn to next page)  
Responsive Carol 151

Galatians 4:4-7  
Jeanette Mottl  
In the Bleak Midwinter

Scripture Reading  
Prayer  
\* Responsive Carol 188

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3  
Libby Piotrowski  
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

## GIVING OF THE 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](http://www.npcovenant.org/give)*

Offertory

Lo, A Rose  
arr. Wilbur Held

\* Doxology 48  
\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 167

The First Noel

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells  
arr. Matt Hyzer

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

*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.*

# PRAYER OF EXAMEN

## **Reflecting with Gratitude**

List the things, events, people, or experiences you see as gifts from this past year. Name specifically those that come to memory as a way of thanking God for them.

## **Reflecting on Yourself**

List five feelings (positive or negative, from your perspective) that you believe have been most prominent in your life this past year.

Ask God to help you accept these emotions as being neither “good” nor “bad”, and ask for help reflecting on why you feel as you do.

## **Reflecting on God’s Presence**

When did you feel God’s presence this year? When did you experience an increase in faith, hope, and love?

When did you struggle to feel God’s presence? Where did you experience a decrease in faith, hope, and love?

## **Looking Forward**

Imagine what challenges and blessings might await you this year. Make a list of the ones you think might take prominence in your life and ask God to guide you.

## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

*Descant*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

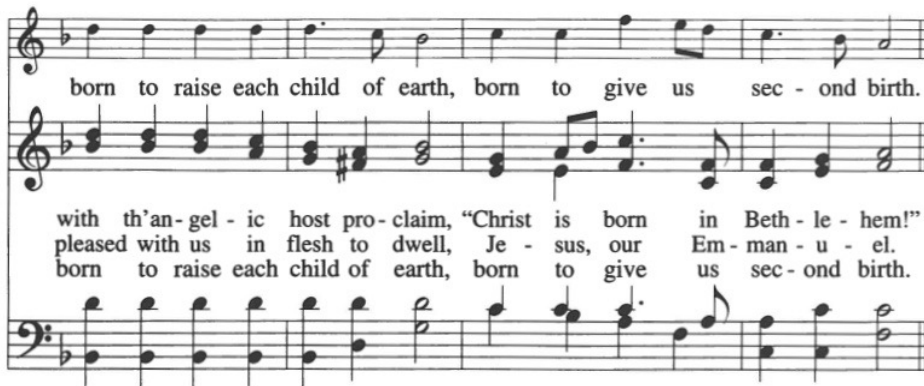
1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild— God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see: hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

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### THE LORD'S PRAYER

887

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Traditional*

# For All That You Have Done

Rend Collective



Your grace will ne - ver be for - got. Your  
From moun - tain top to val - ley low, through  
In all our fail - ures and re - grets, You've  
In u - ni - ty we'll stand as one, as



mer - cy, all my life, will be my soul's for -  
laugh - ter and through tears, sure - ly the good - ness  
al - ways led us home. Re - demp - tion's arm has  
fam - i - ly we'll go shoul - der to shoul - der,



e - ver song, my stor - y and my light.  
of my God will fol - low all the years.  
raised us up, our tri - umph in the storm.  
hand in hand, in - to the great un - known.



For all that You have done for us, for



e - very bat - tle won, we'll raise a song to



bless Your heart, for all that You have done.

## While by Our Sheep

1 While by our sheep we watched at night, glad tid-ings brought an  
 2 There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth-le - hem a  
 3 There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall re -  
 4 This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - er joy our

an - gel bright.  
 Child to - day.  
 deem us all. How great our joy! Great our joy!  
 hearts shall fill.

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in

heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!



## In the Bleak Midwinter

151

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Our God, heav'n can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

## Go, Tell It on the Mountain

188

*Refrain (in unison)*

F B♭M7/F F Dm Gm B♭/C C F Gm7 C7

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

F B♭M7/F F Dm G7 B♭/C C F B♭/F F *Fine*

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

F C/E Dm7 Gm B♭/C C F B♭/F

1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
 2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

F C/E Dm7 G7 Csus7 C7 *D.C.*

hold through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

## 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)

## The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full rev - 'rent -  
 6 Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay  
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was  
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both  
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in  
 to our heav'n - ly Lord; for Christ has our sal -

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.  
 va - tion wrought and with his blood our life has bought.

*Refrain*

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

# *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 on December 21
- **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

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

**The church office will be closed** on Monday, January 1, and Tuesday, January 2. If you are in need of pastoral care during that time, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Jeff.

**We invite you to Intergenerational Sunday School** next Sunday, January 7, at 9:15 am in the parlors. We will begin with breakfast together and dive further into the world of C.S. Lewis and *The Chronicles of Narnia!* Come for food, fellowship, and a time of learning and growing together!

**Bible Journaling will begin again** on Sunday, January 14. If you'd like to join in, please meet in the art room on the lower level (south of the coffee lounge) at 9:15 that day. You may bring your own journal and art supplies, but supplies will also be available.

**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 tremendously 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 financially in 2024. You may use the online pledge form sent out via the General Church Information email, 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. And a big thank you to those who have already completed a 2024 pledge.

## The Church Calendar This Week

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

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### *Monday, January 1 - New Year's Day - Office Closed*

4:20 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)  
6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)

### *Tuesday, January 2 - Office Closed*

4 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)  
6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

### *Wednesday, January 3*

4:30 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)  
6:30 pm Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)

### *Thursday, January 4*

5 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)  
8:15 pm Swanson Basketball (Gym)

### *Friday, January 5*

4:30 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)

### *Saturday, January 6*

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

### *Sunday, January 7*

9:15 am Intergenerational Sunday School (Parlors)  
10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)  
7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

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**North Park Covenant  
Church Staff**

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

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Joline Paska, Treasurer  
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Christian Schuetz, Custodian  
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Ann-Marie O. Frisk, Church Administrator  
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**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

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info@friendshipcenterchicago.org  
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

**Missionaries We Support**

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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**

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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.*

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