



NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

JANUARY 5, 2025
+ EPIPHANY SUNDAY +

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PRELUDE

Journey to the King
Matt Schinske
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 72

Give your love of justice to the king, O God,

and righteousness to the king's son.

Help him judge your people in the right way;

let the poor always be treated fairly.

May the mountains yield prosperity for all,

and may the hills be fruitful.

Help him to defend the poor,

to rescue the children of the needy, and to crush their oppressors.

The western kings of Tarshish and other distant lands will bring him tribute.

The eastern kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him gifts.

All kings will bow before him,

and all nations will serve him.

He will rescue the poor when they cry to him;

he will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious to him.

* OPENING HYMN 191

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Johanna Frisk, Reader

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

Shine Over Sea and Shore

Alice Tegnér

Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

Shine over sea and shore, star of the ages,
you, who in Orient lore, guided the sages.
That star of time now gone tends not away, but home.
Children and shepherds follow you gladly,
radiant, shining star; follow you gladly.

Night over Israel, night over Zion,
far on the western rim fades now Orion.
Shepherds who weary rest, children who slumber blest
wake at a marvelous chorus of voices,
gaze at the shining star. The world rejoices.

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Be the Center

Michael Frye

1999 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson, Robert Johnson,
Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music

Introspection

Carlos Salzedo

Ayden Hunt, Harp

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Let All Things Now Living

arr. Cindy Berry

Sam Parnin, Piano

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 192

As with Gladness Men of Old

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

God Be in My Head
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 mine end and in my departing.

POSTLUDE

Away in a Manger/Christ Was Born on Christmas Day
arr. Kenneth Knowles
Ayden Hunt, French Horn
Erik Ward, French Horn

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

LEARNING LITURGY: SITTING DURING THE POSTLUDE

Each church and each denomination has certain practices that shape the way they worship. Here is some insight into why we do what we do around here.

You may have noticed that we have a practice of sitting during the postlude. And you may have thought this is a little odd, as it is not something other churches generally do. There are a few stories about how this came to be, but one version we've heard is that when a beloved organist was retiring, she made a request of the congregation that they sit during the postlude and allow the next organist to be honored for their skill and effort. Whether this moment is one that allows you to appreciate the artistry, spend a final moment in prayerful connection with God, or just take a deep breath before you plunge into whatever comes next, we hope that this practice helps you grow as someone who is learning to be more present and more appreciative of the beauty that is all around.

If you do need to leave, we ask that you do so quietly.

191 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,
2 Come, heav'n - ly bride - groom, light di - vine, and deep with - in our hearts now shine;

a - glow with grace and mer - cy! Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's Son,
there light a flame un - dy - ing! In your one bod - y let us be

Our Lord and mas - ter, you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly!
as liv - ing branch - es of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing.

Je - sus, Je - sus— fair and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious,
Je - sus, Je - sus— now pos - sess me, turn and bless me!

EPIPHANY: LIFE

rich in bless - ing, rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
Here in sad - ness eye and heart long for your glad - ness!

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The vocal line is written in a soprano or alto range, with lyrics placed below the notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Be the Center

Michael Frye



Je - sus, be the cen - ter. Be my source,
Je - sus, be the cen - ter. Be my hope,
Je - sus, be my vi - sion. Be my path,

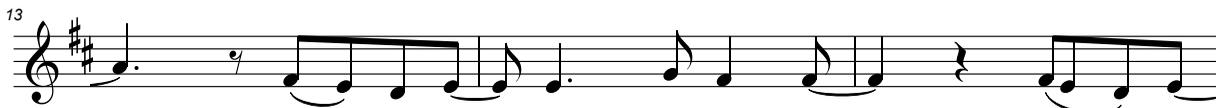
1.



be my light, Je - sus.
be my song, Je - sus.
be my guide, Je - sus.



Be the fire in my heart. Be the wind in these sails.



Be the rea - son that I live Je - sus



Je - sus

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Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures

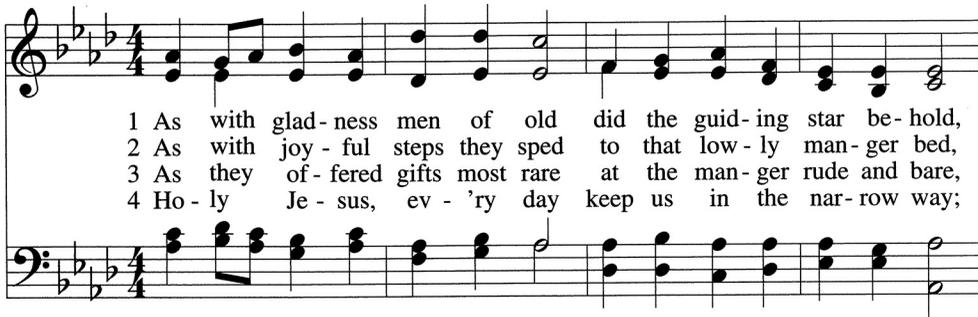
The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a series of chords and single notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

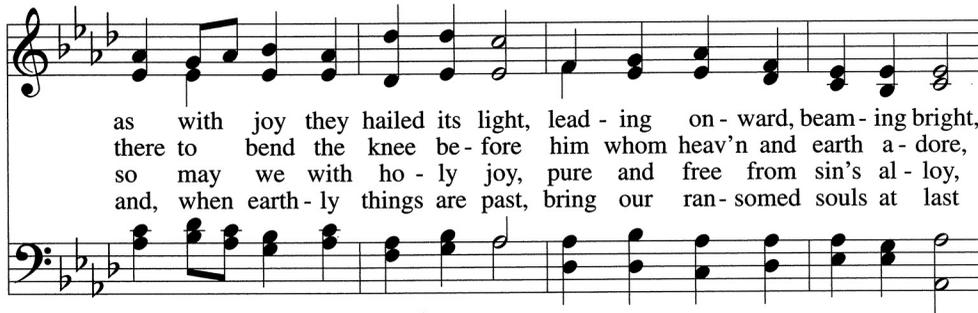
The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The upper staff features a mix of chords and moving lines. The lower staff continues the harmonic support with chords and single notes.

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

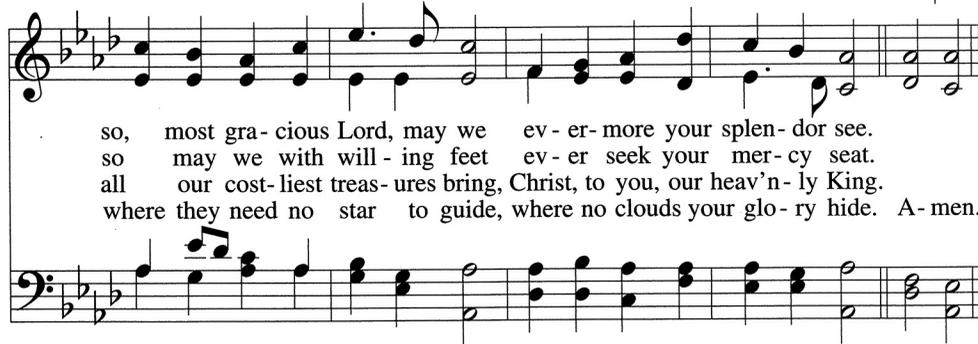
The third system concludes the piece. The upper staff ends with a double bar line. The lower staff also concludes with a double bar line.



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at the man-ger rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
 there to bend the knee be-fore him whom heav'n and earth a-dore,
 so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
 so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
 all our cost-liest treas-ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n-ly King.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo-ry hide. A-men.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

MUSIC: Adapt. from a chorale by Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

7.7.7.7.7.7.
 DIX

A lower setting can be found at 56.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

*Let us pray that God would unveil within our neighbors and ourselves
the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength
floods their and our innermost beings with his divine power.*
- Ephesians 3:16 (The Passion Translation)

For your prayers this week:

- **our neighborhood**, specifically the 5200 block of N Kedzie (NPU, 5218, 5224-Jesus House Church); 3200 block of W Foster (NPU); and 3200 block of W Berwyn
- **Jon Boyd and family**, as his father, Bill Boyd, has been placed on hospice care
- **Eileen Thorpe**, recuperating after a brief hospitalization for RSV
- **Sandy Edstrom**, struggling with a broken foot in addition to the pain of sciatica
- **Diane Haglund**, undergoing radiation treatments through January 27
- **Sharon Johnson**, Anders' mother, recuperating at home after a fall in which she broke her pelvis
- **Kevin Wendt**, Ryan's dad, undergoing chemotherapy and struggling with congestive heart failure
- **Greg Mesimore**, retired Covenant pastor, recuperating after surgery related to a brain tumor
- Marti Hindaileh's godson, **Brandon Baglayan**, undergoing chemotherapy treatments
- Rosemary Slaughter's cousin **Joanie Mykesell**, anticipating having a pacemaker inserted when she's healthy enough

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church! If you're new here today, we invite you to scan the QR code to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.



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 0 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.

Today is a Benevolence Sunday. Members of the Deacon Board will be at the doors after the service to receive any donations to our benevolence fund, which is used to help those in need in our community.

Vida Plena, a Spanish-speaking Covenant Church plant that meets here at North Park Covenant Church, invites you to worship every Sunday at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Dany Flores at 872-357-9080.

Offering envelopes are here! If you requested a box of envelopes for 2025, they are in the parlors for you to pick up today.

It's time to clear out the Lost & Found! If you think you may have misplaced something here at the church, please feel free to reach out to me to ask if that item is in our lost and found. Anything not claimed by Wednesday, January 15, will be donated or tossed.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, January 12:**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

From the family of Ken Johnson (father of NPCC member Elizabeth Johnson and long-time member of Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church), following their notice of his passing in August: A celebration of his life will take place on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at First Baptist Church (1900 Gandy Blvd N, St Petersburg, FL 33702), at 1 pm CT/2 pm ET. For those who would like to attend virtually, the service will be [available via livestream here](#).

There is money to help kids go to camp! Registration for summer camps at Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor is underway! If you need financial assistance or if your child has a friend who would like to go to camp and needs financial help, please reach out to Libby, Jeff, or Jeanette. Scholarship monies are available!

Volunteers are needed for childcare and hospitality! If you're able to help out in the toddler room or by serving refreshments after Sunday worship, please sign up at tinyurl.com/volunteer-sunday.

The Epiphany of the Lord falls on January 6, but it can be celebrated on the preceding Sunday. Epiphany means “manifestation” or “appearance” and refers to the new manifestation of God to the whole world through the coming of Jesus Christ. The season following the Epiphany of the Lord consists of up to nine Sundays, including the Baptism of the Lord and Transfiguration Sunday. During Epiphany, the revelatory events of the life of Jesus are remembered, including his baptism, first miracles, teaching, and transfiguration.

from *The Covenant Book of Worship*

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, January 6

- 9:15 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
- 7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, January 7

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, January 8

- 6 pm Gather Dinner (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)
Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7 pm Knit or Not (Parlors)
Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, January 9

- 9 am East Wall Project Progress Meeting (Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, January 10

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (South Chapel Prayer Corner)
- 6 pm Sunday School Sleepover

Saturday, January 11

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, January 12

- 9 am Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
- 9:15 am Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
Adult Formation (Parlors)
Bible Journaling (Art Room)
- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
AA Meeting (Parlors)

