



MARCH 9, 2025
+ THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT +

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PRELUDE

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (407)
with He Leadeth Me (404)
arr. Cindy Berry
Sam Parnin, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



INTROIT

There Is a Redeemer (75, verses 1 and 2)
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 91

Let we who live with faith in God proclaim,

**“Lord, You are my refuge and my fortress,
my God I will trust forever.”**

Let we who trust in the Lord know that holy love surrounds us.

God’s protection will follow us throughout our days.

When we call out to the Lord,

we know that we are heard.

God is with us in every trial and temptation,

therefore we will rejoice in the salvation of the Almighty!

Amen!

* OPENING SONG

All-sufficient Merit

Bethany Barnard, Shane Barnard, Bryan Fowler

2023 More Songs from Wellhouse (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Songs from Wellhouse (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

bryanfowersongs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,

Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

written by Rev. Susan Blain and Rev. Scott Ressman

When we do not listen to your voice in the depths of our own hearts,

calling us to love and forgive:

Lord, have mercy.

When we do not listen to your voice in our common life,
calling us to welcome the stranger and create community:
Christ, have mercy.

When we do not listen to your voice in our world,
calling us to work for justice and to make peace:
Lord, have mercy.

The Word is very near to us, in our hearts and on our lips.
In Christ, we are forgiven; our lives are made new,
and our future of hope is restored.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Joanna Sjoblom, Reader

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Raymond H. Haan

I want Jesus to walk with me,

I want Jesus to walk with me.

All along my pilgrim journey,

I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me,

in my trials, Lord, walk with me.

When my head is bowed in sorrow,

I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I am dying, Lord, walk with me,

when I am dying, Lord, walk with me.

When I am on my bed of sorrow,

O Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer

Keith Getty, Margaret Becker

2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Modern M. Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

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

Deep River

arr. Gert Th. Walter

Lauren Wargaski, Violin

Paul Wargaski, String Bass

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 215

Christ Jesus Knew a Wilderness

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Hope Is Founded on God

(*Meine Hoffnung steht auf Gott*)

Carl Piutti

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

Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.

*In addition, 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 for your use.*

All-sufficient Merit

Shane Barnard, Bryan Fowler, and Beth Barnard

All - suf - fi - cient mer - it shin - ing like the sun. A
love He con - de - scen - ded e - ter - nal now in time. A

5
for - tune I in - her - it by no work I have done. My
life with - out a blem - ish the ma - ker made to die. The

9
right - eous - ness I for - feit us; at my sav - ior's cross where
law could ne - ver save us; our law - less - ness had won un -

13
all - suf - fi - cient mer - it did what I could not.
till the pure and spot - less Lamb had fin - 'ly

17
2.
In come. It is

21
done; it is fin - ished; no more debt I owe. Paid in

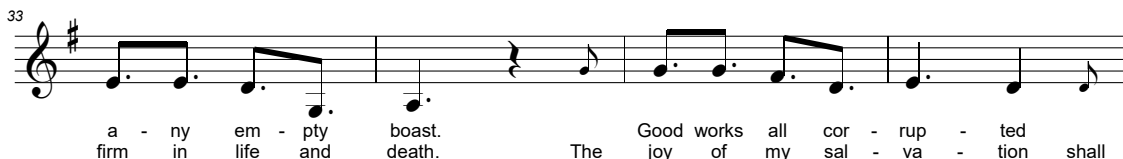
25
full, all - suf - fi - cient mer - it now my own.

29



I lay down my garments;
All suf - fi - cient mer - it;

33



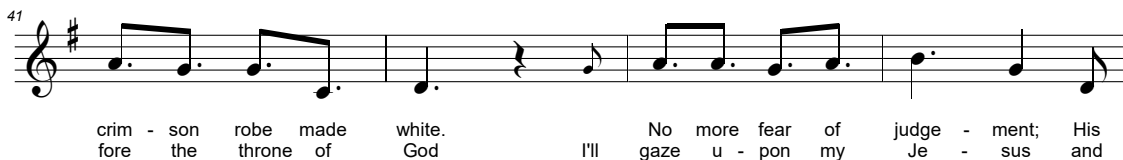
a - ny in em - pty and boast. death. The Good works all cor - rup - ted shall
firm in life and death. joy of my sal - va - tion shall

37



by the sin - ful host. Dressed in my Lord Je - sus, a -
be my fi - nal breath, and when I stand ac - cep - ted be -

41



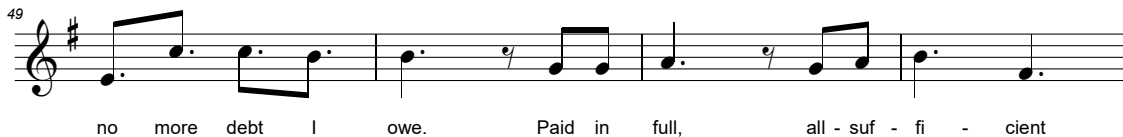
crim - son robe made white. No more fear of judge - ment; His
fore the throne of God I'll gaze u - pon my Je - sus and

45



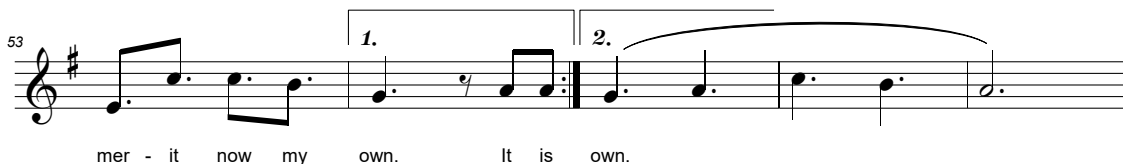
right - eous - ness is mine. It is done; it is fin - ished;
thank Him for the cross.

49



no more debt I owe. Paid in full, all - suf - fi - cient

53



mer - it now my own. It is own.

58



It's now my own.

D.S. al Fine

Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer

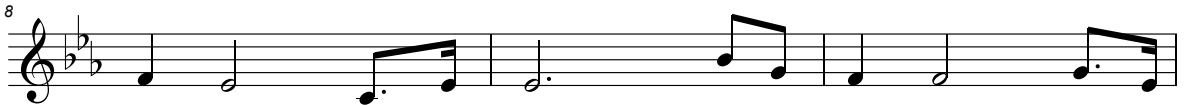
Keith Getty, Margaret Becker



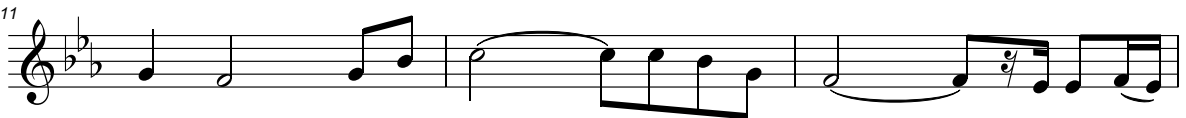
1. Je-su,s draw me e - ver near-er as I la-bor through the
2. Je-sus, guide me through the temp-est. Keep my spi - rit staid and
3. Let the trea-sures of the tri - al form with - in me as I



storm.
sure.
go,
You have called me to this pass - age, and I'll
When the mid - night meets the morn - ing, let me
and at the end of this long pass - age, let me



fol - ow, though I'm worn. May this jour - ney bring a
love You e - ven more.
leave them at Your throne.



bless - ing, may I rise on wings of faith; and at the



end of my heart's test - ing, with Your like - ness let me wake.

CCLI # 3552533

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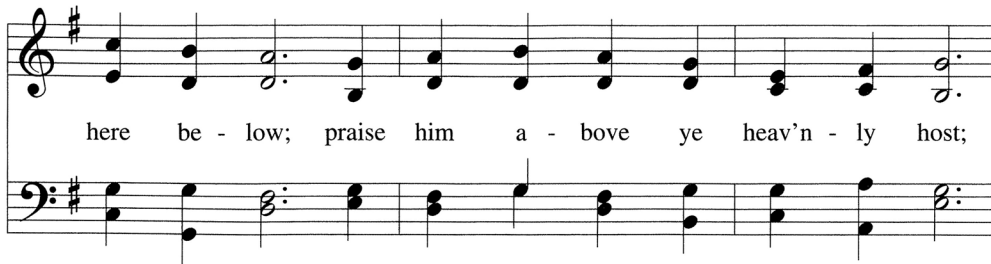
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Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



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

The first system of music consists of two staves. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature, featuring a simple harmonic accompaniment of 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 a continuation of the melodic line with some rests. The bass staff provides a steady 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. The overall mood is reverent and worshipful.

Christ Jesus Knew a Wilderness

215

1 Christ Je - sus knew a wil - der - ness of noon - day
 2 Christ Je - sus knew un - cer - tain - ty. Would all for-
 3 Christ Je - sus knew an up - per room, an ol - ive
 4 Christ Je - sus, in our wil - der - ness, you are our

heat and night - time cold, of doubts and hun - gers,
 sake, de - ny, be - tray? Would crowds that fol - lowed
 grove, a judg - ment hall, a skull - like hill, a
 bread, our drink, our light. Your death and ris - ing

new and old, temp - ta - tion wait - ing to take hold.
 turn a - way? Would powers of e - vil hold their sway?
 drink of gall, an air - less tomb, be - reft of all.
 set things right. Your pres - ence puts our fears to flight.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **our neighborhood**, specifically the east side of the 5200 block of N Bernard and the north side of the 3400 block of W Foster
- **Elizabeth Petersen**, happy to be home again after a time in the hospital and in rehab
- **Larry H. Knipp**, recuperating after knee-replacement surgery on March 4
- **Christian Schuetz and family**, mourning the passing of his mother, Joan Schuetz, on February 25
- **family and friends of Joan Van Note**, who passed away on February 22
- **family and friends of LeRoy Johnson**, who passed away on February 8
- **two of Brian Ward's students** and their younger brother, whose mother was killed in a recent domestic violence incident
- **Marcia Knudson**, former member here, undergoing chemo and radiation for lung cancer
- **Sandy Edstrom**, healing after breaking her foot
- **Brandon Baglayan**, Marti Hindaileh's godson, undergoing chemotherapy
- **western North and South Carolina**, as wildfires rage
- **western North Carolina**, still recovering from severe flooding caused by Hurricane Helene
- **residents of Los Angeles, California**, experiencing mudslides on the heels of devastating wildfires



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.

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

Beginning tonight, all are invited to join us for evening Lenten services at 6 pm in the south chapel. These services will be contemplative in nature, relatively brief, and will end with communion each evening. The dates are March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, and April 6. Come worship with us!

As we approach Easter, it's time to think about those we would like to memorialize or honor. We invite you to do this, either with a flowering plant or a monetary gift. This year's donations will go toward our camping fund. Whether you choose one option or both, your name/s will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 20. The deadline to place an order or make a donation is Friday, March 21. A paper form is included on the inside back page of today's bulletin, but if you would rather make a donation and/or purchase flowers online, you may do so [using this link](#).

Tomorrow is the last day to RSVP for the Corned Beef Lunch! On Sunday, March 16, following worship, we invite you to a Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch in the parlors. Come enjoy a delicious corned beef and cabbage lunch, along with some Irish soda bread and Green River! *All are welcome to attend, but RSVPs are required.* Please let us know if you plan to come, [using this link](#), by Monday, March 10.

The church library book display for March is focused on prayer. We all need to have a prayer recharge from time to time. The library has many books to help you connect with God and enjoy your time of prayer. Come peruse the book display this month to find your next read.

New Members Class to be Held on Saturday, April 5! Have you been wondering about membership at North Park Covenant Church and what it might mean? Do you have questions about the church and/or the Covenant denomination? Would you like to learn more, without the obligation to join the church? We'd love to have you join us in our next New Members Class, which will take place on Saturday, April 5, from 9 am to 1 pm. Please let Pastor Libby or Pastor Jeff know if you're interested, and they will add your name to the list and be in touch!

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, March 16:**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

NPCC may send three delegates to Celebration, the Central Conference Annual Meeting, on May 2-3 in Libertyville, IL, and to Gather, the denominational Annual Meeting, on June 26-28 in Orlando, FL, or remotely. If you would like to be a delegate, please contact a co-chair (Nancy Ebner or Susan Dawson) or a co-pastor.

Are you looking for a way to serve at NPCC in 2025? Make this the year you hang out with the littlest in our community—[sign up to help with childcare](#) during an upcoming service.

Volunteers are always welcomed to help serve refreshments during the coffee hour after worship. If you're looking for a low-key way to get involved on a Sunday or two, please consider this opportunity. [The sign-up sheet can be found here](#), and if you have questions about what this task entails, [please reach out to Ann Marie Strom](#).

An invitation from the congregation of Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Albany Park: Join us for a time of worship that is 1) for any believer who does not fear being in the trenches with Latino worshipers, and 2) a secondary service to be supportive of the core Spanish church, whose service follows at 11:30 am.

We invite you to our new English-language church services every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 am. We will serve a free breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 am.

Until we attract new worshipers, we can use help with ushering, worship, music, dance, kitchen, etc. Whether you choose to serve a while or just visit now and then, please share this with friends and family. We are located at 4516 N. Kedzie Avenue.

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, March 10

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, March 11

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

Wednesday, March 12

10 am	Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
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, March 13

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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Friday, March 14

1 pm	Prayer Gathering (Edstrom Home)
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Saturday, March 15

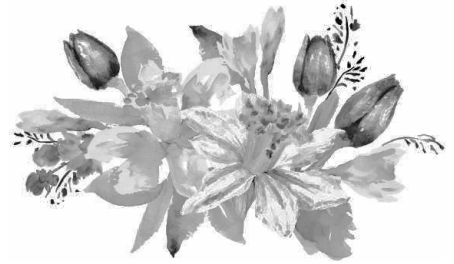
8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, March 16

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)
12 pm	Corned Beef & Cabbage Lunch (Parlors)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Sanctuary)
6 pm	Lenten Worship Service (South Chapel)
7 pm	High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
	AA Meeting (Parlors)

2025 Easter Memorials/Honoraria

You are invited to honor or memorialize a loved one, either with a flowering plant or a monetary gift. This year's donations will go toward our camping fund. Whether you choose one option or both, your name/s will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 20. *The deadline to submit a form is Friday, March 21.*



- ☐ I/We would like to order ____ Easter plant/s at \$25/plant.
☐ I/We would like to make a donation to support the camping fund.

☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Online

Amount paid: \$ _____

Please note: If paying online for a plant and making a donation, separate transactions must be done for each purpose, selecting Flowers or Camping from the drop-down menu.

A paper form must be submitted to the office, regardless of payment method.

Given in memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

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

Phone _____

Email _____

Please place this form and your payment (if not paying online) in the offering plate or bring them to the church office. Thank you!

Jeff Hunter, Co-pastor
jhunter@npcovenant.org
ext. 525

Libby Piotrowski, Co-pastor
lp Piotrowski@npcovenant.org
ext. 515

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

Sam Parnin, Organist
sparnin@npcovenant.org

Joline Paska, Treasurer
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Ann-Marie Olson Frisk, Church Administrator
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Becky Edwards
Administrative Director

Jennifer Glazier
Assistant Teacher

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Letha Kerl,
Regional Co-coordinator for Europe

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,
Latin America

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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