



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

NOVEMBER 16, 2025
+ THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Apparition de l'église éternelle
(Apparition of the Eternal Church)

Olivier Messiaen
Sam Parnin, Organ

The prelude sustains a very loud volume throughout its duration. If you have sensitive hearing or other sensory concerns, you are encouraged to step outside the sanctuary as needed. This composition depicts the appearance of the eternal church, with themes that tie to today's Luke passage, as well as to an alternate passage, Isaiah 65:17-25, found in the lectionary. Please feel free to read and reflect on these passages as you listen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter
Scott Applequist

Moment for Mission: Stewardship Committee



CHORAL INTROIT

Gather Us In
Hymnal Selection 511, verses 1 and 4
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP 828, with sung response

Psalm 98

* OPENING HYMN 3

Earth and All Stars!

Reading and math! Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things. We too will praise him with a new song!

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHORAL ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love that from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn, of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn, of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn, of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this, our joyful hymn, of praise.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Rebecca Rodriguez, Reader

Malachi 4:1-2a

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Blessed Be Your Name

Beth Redman, Matt Redman

Led by Anders Johnson, Robert Johnson, Jeanette Mottl,
Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley

arr. Anna Laura Page

Brian Ward, Organ

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 757

Abide with Me

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Hymnal Selection 407, arr. Jerry Ray

*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out
and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

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

Psalm 98

RESPONSE



God has done mar - vel-ous things: I too will praise him with a new song!

I ¹O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

II ²The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
³He has remembered his steadfast love and
 faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

RESPONSE

I ⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

II ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
⁸Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
⁹**at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.**
 He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

RESPONSE

Words: Herbert F. Brokering, ©1968 Augsburg Fortress
 Music: David N. Johnson, ©1968 Augsburg Fortress

Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Come, rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the
 2 Hail, wind, and rain! Come, blow - ing snow - storms! Sing to the
 3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud, clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the
 4 En - gines and steel! Loud, pound - ing ham - mers! Sing to the

Lord a new song! O vic - to - ry! Or - der from
 Lord a new song! Flow - ers and trees! Soft rus - tling
 Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre! Low hum - ming
 Lord a new song! Lime - stone and beams! Strong build - ing

Refrain
 cha - os! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 work - ers! Sing to the Lord a new song!

mar - vel - ous things. We too will praise him with a new song!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Blessed Be Your Name

Matt and Beth Redman

2002 Thankyou Music Ltd (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Bless - ed be Your name in the land that is plen -
Bless - ed be Your name when I'm found in the des -

ti - ful place, where Your streams of a - bun -
ert place, though I walk through the wild -

dance flow; bless - ed be Your name.
er - ness, bless - ed be Your name.

E - very bless - ing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.

When the dark - ness clos - es in, Lord, still I will say: "Bless - ed be the

name of the Lord. Bless - ed be Your name. Bless - ed be the

name of the Lord. Bless - ed be Your glor - i - ous name."

27

Bless - ed be Your name when the sun's shin - ing down
 Bless - ed be Your name on the road marked with suf -

30

on me, when the world's "all as it should be," bless - ed be Your name.
 - fer - ing though there's pain in the off - er - ing bless - ed be Your name.

34

1. 2.
 E - very bless - ing You pour out I'll turn back to

39

praise. When the dark - ness clos - es in, Lord, still I will say:

44

"Bless - ed be the name of the Lord. Bless - ed be Your name.

48

Bless - ed be the name of the Lord. Bless - ed be Your glor - i - ous name."

53

You give and take a - way, you give and take a - way. My

58

2nd time, D.S al Fine
 heart will choose to say, "Lord, bless - ed be Your name." You

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 a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while 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 has a dotted half note followed by eighth notes, and the bass staff features a mix of chords and moving lines.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a final chord and a double bar line, while the bass staff continues with a few more notes before also ending with a double bar line.

Abide with Me

757

1 A - bide with me—fast falls the e - ven - tide; the dark - ness deep - ens—
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; earth's joys grow dim, its
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour; what but your grace can
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless; ills have no weight and
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; shine thro' the gloom and

Lord, with me a - bide; when oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts
 glo - ries pass a - way; change and de - cay in all a - round I
 foil the temp - ter's pow'r? Who like your - self my guide and stay can
 tears no bit - ter - ness; where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to -
 point me to the skies; heav'n's morn - ing breaks and earth's vain shad - ows

flee, help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 see; O Lord who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
 be? Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 ry? I tri - umph still if you a - bide with me.
 flee; in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me. A - men.

WORDS: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847, alt.
 MUSIC: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

10.10.10.10.
 EVENTIDE

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

If you're new here today, we invite you to email the co-pastors at copastors@npcovenant.org 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) during the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We welcome children in the service but recognize that parents may need a break so they can focus on worship.

For your prayers this week:

- **our neighborhood**, specifically the east side of the 5500 block of N. Kimball and the north side of the 3400 block of W. Bryn Mawr; *"We 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 might and explosive power."* (Ephesians 3:16)
- **our immigrant brothers and sisters**, as ICE activity continues in the area
- **Huck Johnson**, as he anticipates another ACL surgery on Friday, November 21
- Elizabeth Petersen's nephew **Robert Ramos**, fighting pancreatic cancer and undergoing treatments
- **Andrea Feijoo**, Janice Kelly's niece, diagnosed with an aggressive liver cancer
- Joline and Steve Paska's friend **Maggie**, diagnosed with stage 3 endometrial cancer
- **Kurt Peterson**, recovering at home after recent open heart surgery
- **Janet Olfelt**, Joel Olfelt's mother, moved this past weekend to assisted living
- **Brittney Smiley, Khalil and Kash**, mourning the passing of partner and father, Keenan Morgan
- **Lynn Pearson**, back at home after a time at Brandel Care Center
- **Don Olson**, recuperating at home after a procedure last Thursday to have multiple stents inserted
- **Melanie Jones**, for strength to live with chronic pain
- **Steve Brown**, who has been dealing with pancreatic cancer
- **Zeynab and her two sons**, awaiting word about their asylum case; and for Zeynab's daughter, **Soofia**, who remains in a detention center in California
- James and Rachel Ventress's son **Silas**, diagnosed with a degenerative bone disease in his hip and in need of surgery; and their daughter **Mercedes**, diagnosed with a form of epilepsy

The flowers at the front of the sanctuary today are given by Barb and John Goode in memory of Barb's son Eric Yost, who died on this date 44 years ago.

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.

Members and friends are invited to be a part of a Saturday-morning trash brigade, working to clean up the block mentioned in today's neighborhood prayer. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details.

Town Hall Gathering Today: Join us after church from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm for a congregational town hall meeting. The topic of conversation is community connections and how we can better engage with the people around us. We will take time to reflect on the past and look ahead to what we hope the future might look like! Lunch will be served. Please note that you need not be a member of NPCC to be part of this conversation.

How to Keep Up with the News while Drowning: InterVarsity's Women Scholars and Professionals is hosting a discussion with InterVarsity Press author Felicia Wu Song on her recent article entitled "[How to Keep Up with the News while Drowning.](#)" In this article, Felicia writes about how overwhelming the news is these days and offers helpful strategies for managing one's own energy and capacity while staying informed. You are invited to participate in an online conversation about this article on Monday, November 17, at 8 pm. There will be an interview with Felicia and some Q&A time. Although the conversation will be somewhat geared toward Christian women in academics, participants from all walks of life are welcome. To register to attend, please [fill out the form found here](#).

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, November 23:**

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1: 68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Next Sunday, November 23, is Christ the King Sunday! All are invited to join us in the columbarium at 9:45 for a palm burning, during which we will share in a liturgy and burn the palms used in this past April's Palm Sunday worship service. We hope you'll join us!

November 23 is also Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD) Sunday! Each year, we ask our members and friends to designate some of their savings for CWRD. Whether you collect your coins in a soup can, write a check, or make an online donation, you may bring those funds to church either on Sunday, November 23, or at the Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 26. Soup can labels and lids are available in the narthex today! Thank you for joining us in raising funds to aid in the work of our denomination with local partners around the world to reduce human suffering for the most vulnerable people and support healthy communities.

Join us for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service! On Wednesday, November 26, at 7 pm, we will gather together in our sanctuary for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service. This is a time to hear stories of gratitude, and maybe share a brief word of your own on the topic during an open-mic moment. The service will be followed by a pie social in the parlors. If you are willing and able to make or purchase a pie for the social, or if you're able to help set up, serve, or clean up, please [sign up here](#). Thank you!

Join in an Advent Spiritual Practice: In the midst of Christmas busyness, you're invited to join our Advent spiritual practice group. Emily Cody, our pastoral intern, will lead us in spiritual practices to help us rest and listen during this Advent season. This group will meet on Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17 after Gather dinner from 6:30-7:15 pm. All are welcome to join for as many or as few nights as you are able. Our goal is to rest together and listen for God in the waiting of Advent!

Benevolence Assistance Available: If you are a SNAP benefits recipient facing financial difficulty, please let Pastor Jeff or Pastor Libby know, and we will make arrangements to help. Alternatively, if you are in a position to give to our benevolence fund for the support of individuals who need additional funds for groceries, we welcome those gifts given online or in the weekly offering.

Two Book Displays in the Church Library: November is National Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The first library book display this month features books such as *First Nations Version Psalms and Proverbs* edited by Terry M. Wildman, *Authentic Alaska: Voices of Its Native Writers* edited by Susan Andrews and John Creed, *Native: Identity, Belonging and Rediscovering God* by Kaitlin B. Curtice, and *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell. This display also includes a list of all Native American and Alaska Native books held by the library. The second display celebrates Thanksgiving with books for young and old.

The Board of Community Concern invites you to help the Friendship Center with its annual Thanksgiving food distribution. They need people Friday evening, November 21, from 4 to 6 pm to help with setup, and have two spaces open on Saturday, November 22, to help reset the pantry after distribution from 5 to 6 pm. If you are an existing volunteer, [use this link to log on and reserve a spot](#). If you have not volunteered with the Friendship Center, [you can sign up here](#), and within 24 hours you should be able to reserve a spot for volunteering. Contact Sarah Hillabrant at yoopergirl@hey.com with any questions.

Extra Help for The Friendship Center: In this uncertain time of SNAP benefits being in jeopardy, The Friendship Center is anticipating an even greater demand from our neighbors. NPCC member Steve Paska is on the board of The Friendship Center and has created a fundraising page. If you're able to give a little extra during this difficult time, [you may do so here](#).

Refugee Support Always Welcomed: If you would like to contribute to refugee support to help those in our community, you may do so by going to www.npcovenant.org/give and selecting "Refugee Family/Immigrant Support Fund" from the drop-down menu.

Are you looking for a way to serve at NPCC? We always welcome people who are willing to hang out with the littlest in our community or help serve refreshments after the worship service! [Click here to put your name down for a Sunday or two](#).

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The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, November 17

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

Tuesday, November 18

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

Wednesday, November 19

10 am	Wednesday 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 (Coffee Lounge)
	Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, November 20

12 pm	Covenant Clergy Cohort Lunch (Parlors)
4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, November 21

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
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Saturday, November 22

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
9 am	Executive Council Retreat (Large Conference Room)
10 am	LT Scandinavian Club Dance Rehearsal (Parlors)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, November 23 - Christ the King Sunday

9 am	Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
9:15 am	Adult Formation (Parlors)
	Bible Journaling (Art Room)
	Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
9:45 am	Palm Burning (Columbarium)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)
	High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

North Park Covenant Church Staff

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*To reach both Jeff and Libby, please use
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Missionaries We Support

Letha Kerl,
Regional Co-coordinator for Europe

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,
Regional Coordinators for 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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