



JANUARY 4, 2026  
+ EPIPHANY SUNDAY +

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PRELUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are  
John H. Hopkins  
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



\* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 72

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

**For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.**

He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

From oppression and violence he redeems their life;

**precious is their blood in his sight. Amen.**

\* OPENING HYMN 194

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

\* 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

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Eric Pfeiffelman, Reader

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

\* Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jeanette Mottl

## CHORAL ANTHEM

Arching Starlight  
Jeff Enns

Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

Arching starlight from the heavens, lead us to this sacred place,  
where a baby in a manger has come to save the human race.  
From an ancient yuletide story comes our hope for all the world.  
Prince of peace and son of Mary, teach us how to live each day.

Wand'ring wisemen, searching shepherds, seeking for the infant king.  
Frankincense or gold and myrrh, are these gifts that we should bring?  
There is one that's far more precious, it was giv'n to all the world:  
Jesus Christ, a child from heaven, sent to be the Lord of all.

In our joy and in our sorrow, Jesus loves us as we are.  
Rich or poor, sick or healthy, all can seek that guiding star.  
Frosty snow or arid desert, He is present ev'rywhere.  
So let us be to one another the living gospel throughout the year. Amen.

## MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

## \* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

What a Beautiful Name  
Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood  
Led by Anders Johnson, Jeanette Mottl,  
Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All who believe in Christ and desire to live a life directed by the Holy Spirit are invited  
to come forward to participate in this sacrament. Gluten-free elements are available.*

A Great Thanksgiving (Insert)

Sharing the Elements

Communion Music

Cleansing Fountain  
arr. Edward Broughton

Sweet Hour of Prayer  
arr. Robert J. Hughes  
Sam Parnin, Organ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Offertory

Melody  
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 196

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You  
Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Arise, Your Light Has Come  
arr. Wayne H. Dietterick

*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.*

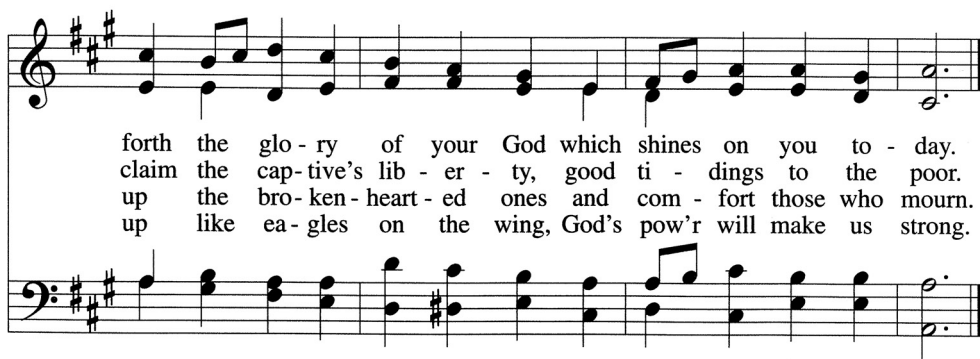
*Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.  
In addition, if you have prayer requests to be shared confidentially with the pastors,  
there is a prayer box located in the narthex, as well as slips of paper and a pen  
in the box's drawer for your use.*

# Arise, Your Light Is Come!

194



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise



forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
 up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1947-, © 1992 GIA Publications  
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

S.M.  
 FESTAL SONG

# What a Beautiful Name

Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood

2016 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)



You were the word at the be-gin - ning: one with God, the Lord Most



High. Your hid-den glor-y in cre-a - tion now re- vealed in You, our



Christ. What a beau-ti-ful name it is, what a beau-ti-ful name it is the name of Je-



sus Christ, my King What a beau-ti-ful name it is, no-thing com-pares to this.



What a beau-ti-ful name it is, the name of Je- sus.



You did-n't want hea-ven with- out us, so Je-sus You brought hea-ven down.



My sin was great, Your love was great - er. What could se - par - ate us



now? What a won-der-ful name it is, what a won-der-ful name it is, the name of Je-  
 What a pow-er-ful name it is, what a pow-er-ful name it is, the name of Je-



- sus Christ, my King. What a won-der-ful name it is. No-thing com-pares to this.  
 - sus Christ, my King. What a pow-er-ful name it is. No-thing com-pares to this.



What a won-der-ful name it is, the name of Je - sus, what a won-der-ful name it is,  
 What a pow-er-ful name it is, the name of Je - sus, what a pow-er-ful name it is,



the name of Je - sus.  
 the name of Je - sus.



Death couldnot hold You, the veil tore be-fore You. You si-lenced the boast of sin and grave.  
 You have no ri - val. You have no e - qual. Now and for - e - ver, God You reign.



The hea-vens are roar - ing, the praise of Your glo - ry, for You are raised to life a - gain.  
 Yours is the King - dom. Yours is the glo - ry. Yours is the name a - bove all names.



What a pow-er-ful name it is, the name of Je - sus.

## A GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EPIPHANY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,  
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made a covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,  
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born;  
and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,  
you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,  
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”



When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

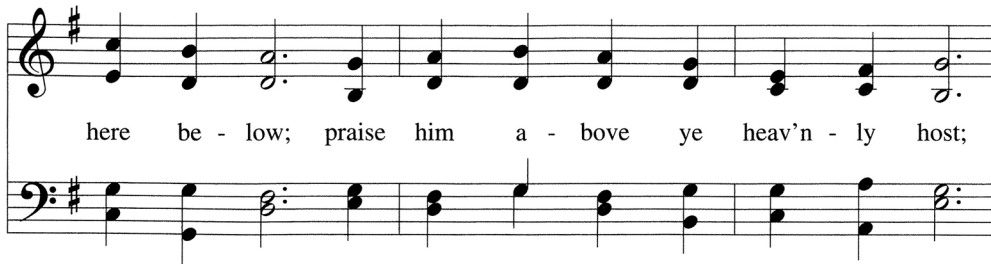
**Amen.**

# Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



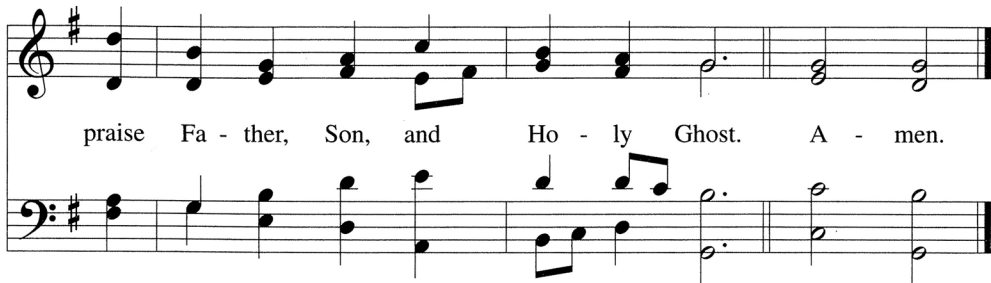
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures

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, providing 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 features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff uses chords and single notes to support the melody.



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, and the bass staff also concludes with a double bar line. The melody and accompaniment are consistent with the previous systems.

## 196 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more love - ly  
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From Ja - cob  
 3 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us  
 4 To God the Fa - ther, heav'n - ly Light, to Christ, re -

than the noon - day light? 'Tis sent to an - nounce a new - born  
 shall a star pro - ceed." And lo, the east - ern sag - es  
 on to seek your face, let not our sloth - ful hearts re -  
 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly Ghost we

king, glad ti - dings of our God to bring.  
 stand, to read in heav'n the Lord's com - mand.  
 fuse the guid - ance of your light to use.  
 raise an end - less song of thank - ful praise! A - men.

WORDS: Charles Coffin, 1676-1740, tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.  
 MUSIC: Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621; arr. George R. Woodward, 1848-1934,  
 © A. R. Mowbray and Company, Ltd.

L.M.  
 PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

An alternate harmonization can be found at 105, 241.

# *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](mailto: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 always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

### *For your prayers this week:*

- **our immigrant brothers and sisters**, as ICE activity continues in the area
- **Darlene Johnson**, recovering from a badly broken arm
- Marti & Nabil Hindaileh's daughters **Kaitlin and Sofia**, displaced from their apartment by a fire
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, who lives in Ohio, in need of bloodwork and a PET scan to determine if a lesion found on her spleen is cancerous, but it won't be covered by Medicaid
- Julie and David Bromley's long-time friend **Tim Dixon**, suffering from stage 4 lung cancer after nine years of being cancer-free
- Janice Finney's mother, **Shirley**, recovering after a fall in which she broke her leg
- Pastor Libby's four-year-old nephew, **Mo Johnson-Collins**, and his parents, awaiting next steps related to two masses on his liver and blood vessels that aren't connected properly to that organ
- **the Weborg family**, mourning the passing on December 13 of Rev. C. John Weborg
- **Millie Lungren and family**, mourning the passing of her brother-in-law Don Bruland
- Michael Shawn Sanders' friend **John C.**, on hospice care
- **Lori Johnson and family**, mourning the passing of her niece Shannon
- **Lynn Pearson**, home again after another hospitalization
- **Kathleen**, a friend of Rosemary Slaughter who lost her dad to cancer
- **Andrea Feijoo**, Janice Kelly's niece, fighting an aggressive liver cancer
- Joline and Steve Paska's friend **Maggie**, diagnosed with stage 3 endometrial cancer
- **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
- Zeynab's daughter, **Soofia**, still in a detention center in California

### **Lectionary texts for Sunday, January 11:**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

**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, invites you to worship every Sunday at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Dany Flores at 872-357-9080.

**Upcoming Town Hall:** Join us on Sunday, January 18, following worship, for a town hall conversation on the proposed budget for 2026, which we will vote on at our annual meeting on January 25, as well as an update on the North Park Church Cooperative Preschool. A snack lunch will be provided.



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**The Church Calendar This Week**

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

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*Monday, January 5*

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 9:15 am  | Women’s Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room) |
| 10:30 am | Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)              |
| 11:30 am | NPCCP Board Meeting (Parlors)                      |
| 4:20 pm  | George Soccer Practice (Gym)                       |
| 6:30 pm  | Geezerball (Gym)                                   |
| 7:30 pm  | Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)           |

*Tuesday, January 6*

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 8 am    | Men’s Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room) |
| 4 pm    | George Soccer Practice (Gym)                     |
| 4:30 pm | Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)     |
| 6 pm    | Cudahy Basketball (Gym)                          |
| 8:15 pm | George Soccer Practice (Gym)                     |

*Wednesday, January 7*

4:30 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)  
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)  
7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

*Thursday, January 8*

4:30 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)  
Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

*Friday, January 9*

4:30 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)

*Saturday, January 10*

8 am Geezerball (Gym)  
10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)  
12:30 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)

*Sunday, January 11 - Baptism of Our Lord 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)  
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)

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## **North Park Covenant Church Staff**

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

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

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

Jeanette Mottl, Pastor for Community Connection,  
with a Focus on Youth and College Students

jmottl@npcovenant.org

Brian Ward, Music Ministry Coordinator/  
Chancel Choir Director  
bward@npcovenant.org

Sam Parnin, Organist  
sparnin@npcovenant.org

Linnea Olfelt, Chancel Handbell Choir Director  
lofelt@npcovenant.org

Christian Schuetz, Custodian  
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

Ann-Marie Olson, Church Administrator  
aolson@npcovenant.org, ext. 500

## **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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Nadia Jiménez,  
Executive Director  
2711 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60625  
(773) 907-6338  
info@friendshipcenterchicago.org  
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

## **Missionaries We Support**

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Chris Peterson,  
Regional 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**

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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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