

NOVEMBER 29, 2026
+ THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT +

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PRELUDE — Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
J.S. Bach (Hymnal Selection 121)
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

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CHORAL INTROIT — Have Thine Own Way, Lord!
Hymnal Selection 381, verses 1 and 2
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE — the Kiltz Family

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come." (Mark 13:35)

We wait as people surprised again and again by God, who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

The first candle is lit.

Let us pray: **God of hope, we light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to your activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now You are with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with You and one another. Amen.**

We sing verse 1 of hymn 134, Long Ago, Prophets Knew.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES — Mary Surridge, Reader
Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 64:1-9
New Testament Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
* Gospel Reading — Mark 13:24-37
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN 120 — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

MESSAGE — Acacia Gin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHORAL ANTHEM — It Is Well with My Soul
Hymnal Selection 451, arr. Craig Courtney
Maria Ward, Flute

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Invitation to Generosity
Offertory — Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus
Hymnal Selection 135, arr. Rowland Hugh Prichard
Brian Ward, Piano

* Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heav'nly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

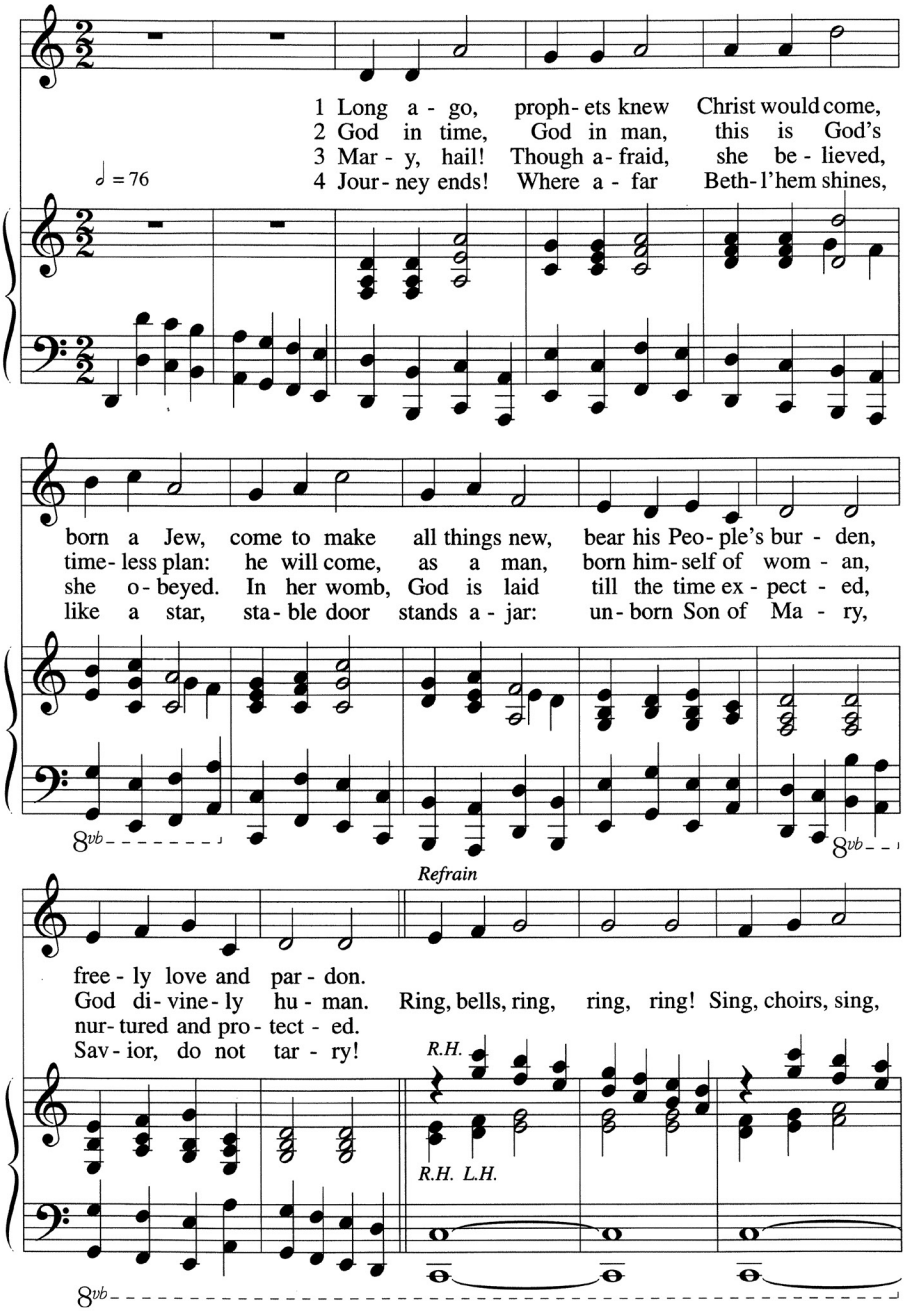
CONGREGATIONAL SONG — Days of Elijah
Robin Mark
Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,
Samantha Johnson, Sam Parnin, Brian Ward

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE — Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
arr. Emily Maxson Porter

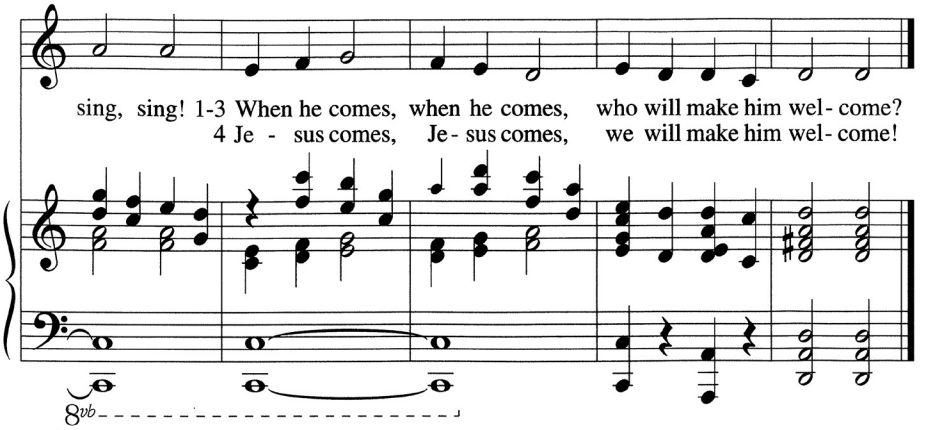
** Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

134 Long Ago, Prophets Knew

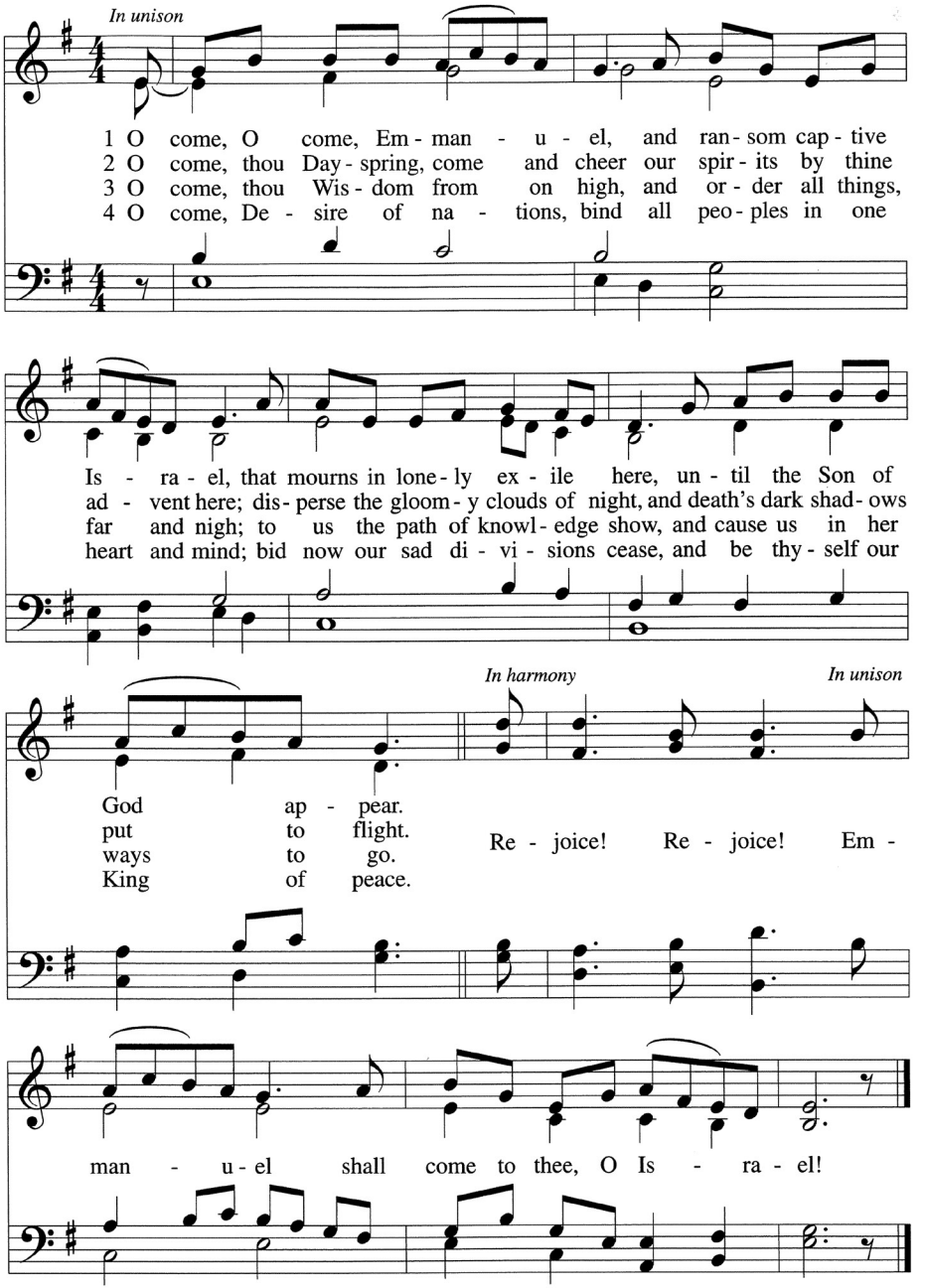


WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-, © 1971 Hope Publishing Company
MUSIC: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; arr. Gustav T. Holst, 1874-1934

6.6.6.6.6. with Refrain
PERSONENT HODIE


sing, sing! 1-3 When he comes, when he comes, who will make him wel- come?
4 Je - sus comes, Je- sus comes, we will make him wel- come!
8vb

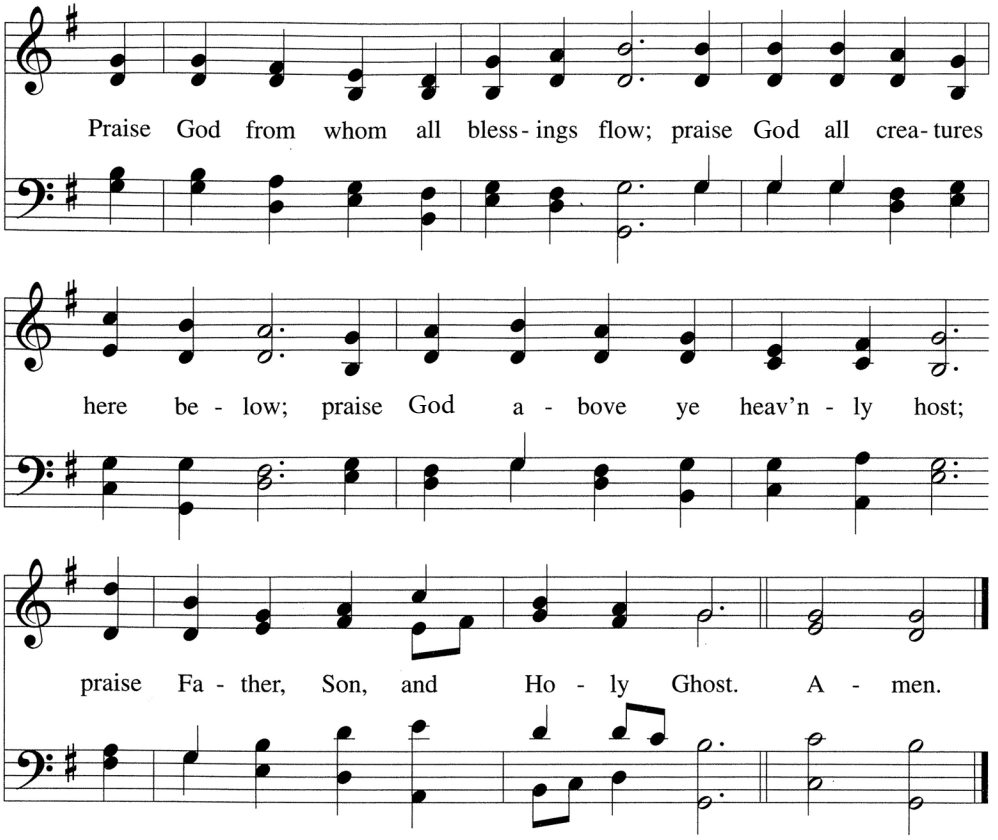
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 120



WORDS: Latin, c. ninth century, tr. sts. 1, 2, John M. Neale, 1818-1866, sts. 3,4, Henry S. Coffin, 1877-1954
MUSIC: Adapt. from plainsong by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; arr. Roland Tabell, 1934-, © 1992 Roland Tabell

L.M. with Refrain
VENI EMMANUEL

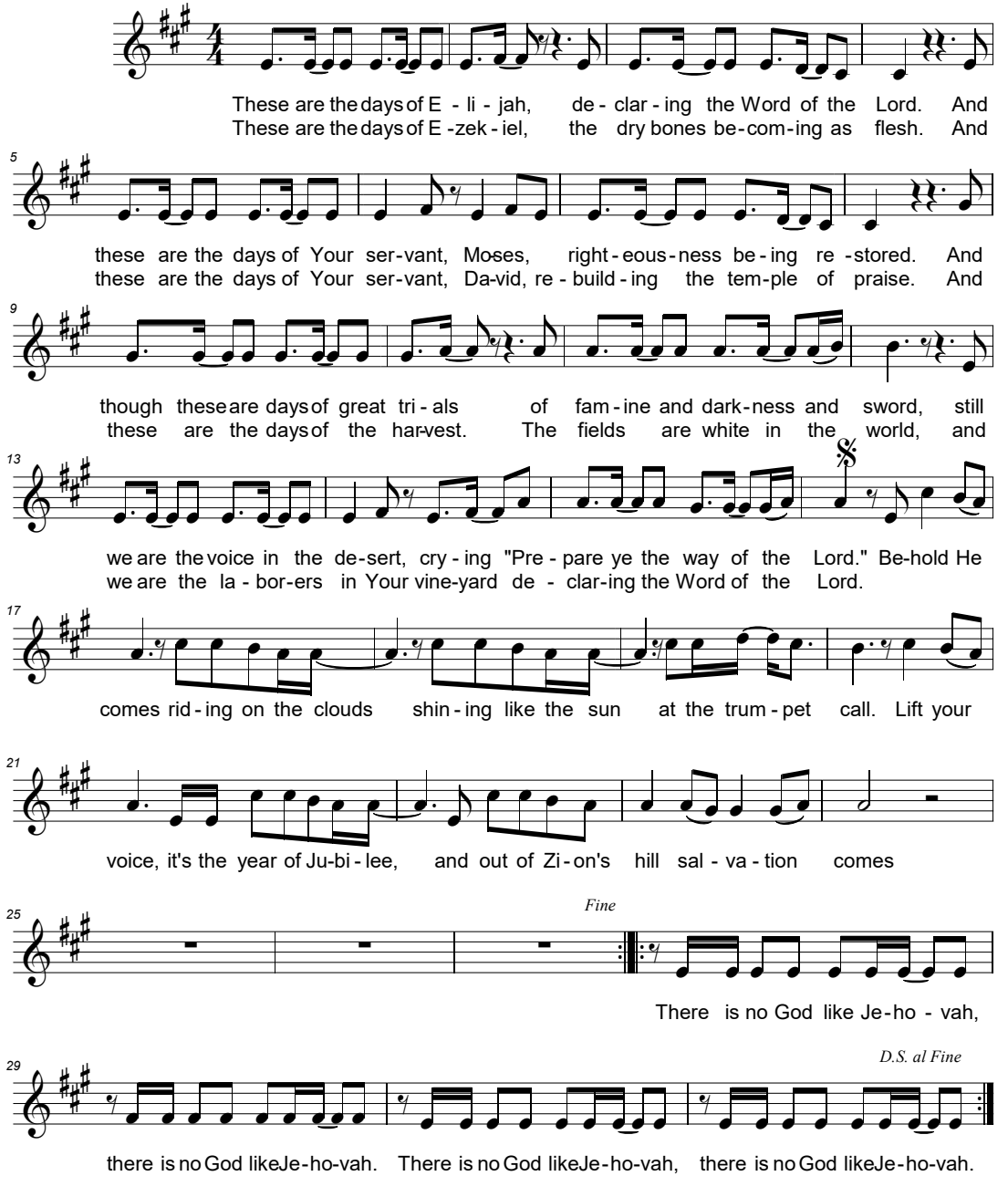
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



Days of Elijah

Robin Mark

1996 Song Solutions Daybreak
(Admin. by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org)



CCLI # 1537904

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

If giving digitally is more your style, this handy QR code will take you directly to our online giving portal. It's a great pathway to one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to support NPCC. In the portal, you can make an account, set up recurring gifts, and even include a little extra to offset processing fees. However you give, know that we are deeply grateful for your generosity and doing all we can to equip this church family to live for God's glory and neighbors' good.

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 part of a Saturday-morning trash brigade, working to clean up an area of our community inspired by this month's community prayer. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details.

As we're sure you've heard by now, this year's Little Town of Bethlehem is rapidly approaching! It is such a fun event for both this church community and the neighborhood beyond our doors! It is also a lot of work and so, whether you have signed up to officially help with something or not, we invite you to help us with set up and decorating as you are able! Here are the dates:

Tuesday, December 1: Parlors Infrastructure Setup, 9 am
Wednesday, December 2: Shop Setup/Costume Pickup, following Gather dinner
Saturday, December 5: Shop Setup/Costume Pickup, 9 am to 12 pm
Sunday, December 6: Event 4 to 6 pm, with a 3 pm call for all participants

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Libby.

Your cookbook is ready to order! Thanks to all the wonderful contributions and support from so many of you, we have finished creating the 2026 North Park Covenant Church cookbook! *We Give Thanks: A Cookbook for the Church Family* will be ready for distribution in early December. Pre-order your copy here—you can choose a coil-bound paper copy (5"x8" or large-print) or a digital download, each for a suggested donation of $18. Buy one for yourself and more for friends! This lovely book makes a great Christmas gift. Proceeds will go to support the benevolence fund. Let's start cooking!

You are invited to extend Christmas greetings to the members and friends of North Park Covenant Church by donating an amount of your choice, which will go toward camping scholarships. You are also welcome to share your own Christmas letter with the church family by bringing a copy to the church office for display in the parlors. A paper form is included in the bulletin, or you can fill out the Realm form found here. *The deadline to submit forms is Wednesday, December 9*, and the names of those who fill out the form will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 13.

Christmas for Our Missionaries: Throughout the year, we as a church support missionaries in five areas of the world via a percentage of General Fund donations. Now it's time to remember these missionary servants with a special Christmas gift. To make a special donation, write "missionary gift" in the memo line on your check and drop it in the offering plate (using the ivory envelopes in the pews) or select "Missionary Gift" from the drop-down menu at www.npcovenant.org/give. *The deadline for these gifts is Sunday, December 13.* Thank you!

Lectionary texts for Sunday, December 6:

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

From the Church Co-chairs, Nancy Ebner and Dave Schlensker: In more ways than we might realize, the ministries of each of our gifted and dedicated staff members are part of God's ongoing work in our lives. Pastoral, musical, administrative, and property care excellence all contribute to this community in and through which God blesses us and our neighbors.

You can contribute to the 2026 staff gift at www.npcovenant.org/give, by selecting "Staff Gift" from the drop-down menu, or by mailing or bringing your gift to church. Label your envelope "staff gift," and if you write a check, please designate "staff gift" on the memo line. Small green envelopes are available in the pews; simply enclose your gift and put it in the offering plate during worship. Money received will be divided among the staff members. *We ask that all contributions reach the church by Sunday, December 13.* May the Spirit of God move among us all this Advent season, as we wait and pray: "Come, Lord Jesus."

An Invitation to Prayerful Giving: An email went out recently encouraging all members and friends to prayerfully consider pledging to support the ministries of North Park Covenant Church in 2027. Pledge cards will be in the pews for the next few weeks. You may fill out one of those cards and place it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning, or you may go to tinyurl.com/2027-npcc-pledge to pledge online.

Please note: If you choose to pledge online, you will need to set up your initial pledge and then schedule your giving in two separate steps. You can set your recurring gift to have an end date or to be ongoing. Thank you for your support in the coming year!

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! Please click here to put your name down for a Sunday or two—thank you!

for your prayers

- **Community prayer:** In a month marked by an emphasis on gratitude and thankfulness, we pause to give thanks to God for God's faithfulness, patience, and presence in our lives.
- **Michael Shawn Sanders**, mourning the recent passing of his aunt Maureen, after a time on hospice
- **family and friends of Tim Martin**, 17th-district Chicago police sergeant, who passed away earlier this month; peace to his memory
- Pastor Libby's five-year-old nephew, **Mo Johnson-Collins**, whose recent heart catheterization went well, now waiting to hear from the surgeon about a date for surgery to remove a tumor on his liver, and also remove his gallbladder
- Sarah Hillabrant's dad, **Bob**, as he adjusts to rehab after a time in the hospital; and **for Sarah and her brother, Eric**, as they care for him
- **Diane Haglund**, whose back surgery has now been rescheduled for Friday, December 18
- **family and friends of Arnold Werling**, friend to many in our congregation, who passed away on November 14
- **Jeremiah Arnold**, who spoke in our recent Prayer for the Journey moment, as he continues on his journey of faith; that he will be able to balance the joy it brings him with the sadness he has experienced due to loss of relationships
- **Brad and Julie Dahlgren**, mourning the loss of Brad's brother, Doug Dahlgren, on November 4
- **Sheryl and Paul Noren**, as they recoup following a robbery at their home in Congo, as well as for the two guards who were injured in that incident
- Jackie Spinner's mom, **Donna Spinner**, who has been diagnosed with leukemia and lymphoma
- Rosemary Slaughter's cousin **Joanie Mykesell**, back in the hospital related to her broken ribs
- **Peter Joly**, Rosemary Slaughter's building manager, who is back in treatment for cancer
- Janice Finney's uncle **Walt Leeman**, diagnosed with bone cancer and on hospice care, and for her aunt **Joyce Leeman**, as she walks this difficult journey with her husband
- **Paula Schuetz**, recuperating after surgery on her ankle on October 12
- Marti Hindaileh requests prayer for a dear friend's mother, **Missy Baker**, seeing improvements in her battle with breast cancer and expecting to have surgery in the near future
- **Ann Marie Strom**, now on a new infusion medication to help with severe pain
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still struggling with sciatica pain
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care

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At Church This Week

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

Monday, November 30

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
4 pm	Tutoring (Parlors)
5:30 pm	Tutoring Movement Time (Gym)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, December 1

8 am	Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
9 am	Little Town of Bethlehem (LTOB) Infrastructure Setup (Parlors)
4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, December 2

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)
	LTOB Shop Setup/Costume Pickup (Parlors/Large Conference Room)
	Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 3

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 4

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)

Saturday, December 5

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
9 am - 12 pm	LTOB Shop Setup/Costume Pickup (Parlors/Large Conference Room)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, December 6 - The Second Sunday of Advent

9 am	Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
9:15 am	Adult Formation (Parlors)
	Art Journaling (Art Room)
	Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
	Tabletop Sundays for High Schoolers (Attic Youth Room)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Sanctuary)
4 pm	Little Town of Bethlehem (Various)
7 pm	AA Meeting (South Chapel)
	High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

North Park Covenant Church Staff

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Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Chris Peterson,
Regional Coordinator for Europe

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,
Regional Coordinators for Latin America

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

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.