

FOURTH
SUNDAY



IN
LENT

MARCH 19, 2023
+ THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT +

PRELUDE

I Give You My Heart
Reuben Morgan
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski

CHORAL INTROIT

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (71, verses 1 and 2)
Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP 791, with sung response 1

Psalm 23

* OPENING HYMN 225

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain,
we would rather shut our eyes and be blind
than see things as they really are.**

**Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world,
and give us the strength to bring your light
to those who walk in darkness.**

**Help us see others as you see them,
and forgive us when we do not trust you enough
to open our eyes to the possibilities before us.**

**Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God,
and lead us in the footsteps
of the Light of the World,**

**who reveals your glory in his life,
his teachings, and his love.**

In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love,
and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us.
Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you.
We believe! God help our unbelief!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake
Richard Farrant

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Martha Berg and Sienna Berg, Readers

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

* Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887 (Using *sins*)

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

The Lord's My Shepherd

Stuart Townend

1996 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Getty Music Hymns and Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

Led by Brian and Maria Ward

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

How Great Thou Art

arr. Lloyd Larson

Dominic German, Baritone

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 341

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

* BENEDICTION

written by Jan L. Richardson

POSTLUDE

Canzona

Domenico Zipoli


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

Psalm 23

RESPONSE 1

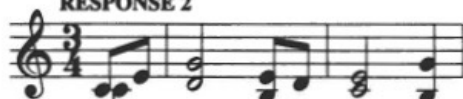


Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

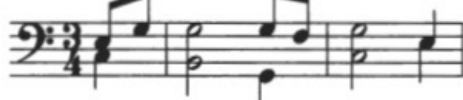


death in-to life.


RESPONSE 2



My shep-herd will sup-



ply my need; Je-ho-vah is his name.



ply my need; Je-ho-vah is his name.



- ALL** ¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside still waters;
³he restores my soul.
 He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

RESPONSE 1 OR 2

Response 1: Words adapt. and music: Marty Haugen, ©1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

Response 2: Music: W. Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. A. Royce Eckhardt, ©1996 A. Royce Eckhardt

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, ob - ject of the Spir - it's love,
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re - pent - ant vow,
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent love for you;

foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior from the world a - bove;
 though we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your thorn - en - cir - cled brow?
 may our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be - hold your cross a - new;

of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed, gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall!
 Yet your sin - less death has brought us life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest;
 till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side,

Yet, up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, you have borne the pain of all.
 on - ly what your grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 grav - en in our hearts for - ev - er, dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied. A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

887

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

ADORATION AND PRAISE

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

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

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major. The melody in the treble staff consists of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

here below; praise him above ye heav'nly host;

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a more active line with eighth notes, while the bass staff remains mostly chordal.

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The final system concludes the piece. The treble staff has a rising melodic line leading to a final cadence, while the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment.

The Lord's My Shepherd



1. The Lord's my shep - herd I'll not want He makes me
2. He guides my ways in right - eous - ness and He a -



lie in pas - tures green He leads me by the still, still
noints my head with oil and my cup it o - ver -



wa - ters His good-ness re - stores my soul And I will trust in you a -
flows with joy I feast on His pure de - lights



lone and I will trust in you a - lone for your end - less mer - cy



fol - lows me Your good-ness will lead me home. and though I



walk the dark - est path I will not fear the e - vil one for you are



with me and your rod and staff are the com - fort I need to know.

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Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound 341

G G/D D7 Em C G

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound—
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me,
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares,
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,

G G/D D/C G/B D7/A G G/B

that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost
 and grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did
 his Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield
 I have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought
 bright shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days

C G G/B Em G/D G/D D7 G

but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 to sing God's praise then when we'd first be - gun.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

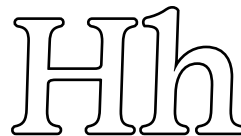
We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **Chloe Johnson**, diagnosed with lupus
- **Sig Hulburt**, recuperating after surgery for a hiatal hernia this past Wednesday
- **Bonnie Pfeiffelman and family**, mourning the recent passing of her father
- **Gaius Berg**, requesting prayer for energy and patience as a grandfather and for discernment in rest/work balance in retirement
- Barbara Nordlund's parents, **Sue and Dwight Samuelson**, recuperating after a cardioversion and first chemo/radiation treatment, respectively
- Millie Lungren's sister, **Margaret**, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- **Rosemary Slaughter's great-nephew**, Anthony, age 4, has leukemia and was recently hospitalized
- **Greg Mesimore**, working with doctors to determine the next best steps of care for a recurring benign brain tumor
- Elizabeth Petersen's stepson, **Robert Petersen**, on hospice care
- **Roger Nelson**, on hospice care
- **Gunnel Brunsell**, diagnosed with lymphoma and not seeking treatment

Praying for Our Neighborhood in 2023

Join us this week, as we pray for those in our community whose first names begin with...



There will be a brief Congregational Meeting immediately following worship today. The purpose is to consider the proposed bylaw amendments that were presented at our January 22 Congregational Annual meeting. This meeting will take place in the sanctuary.

Join in an opportunity to sign Easter cards for congregants! In anticipation of Easter, the Board of Deacons will have a couple of tables in the parlors after worship today and next Sunday, March 26, containing cards that will accompany flowering plants for those in our congregation who are home-bound. Please consider stopping by and signing your name to these cards.

As part of our 125th anniversary celebrations, the planning committee will be hosting two architectural tours of our church building and grounds. Dave and Carol Schlensker will walk you through the history of our lovely facilities, focusing on various building features and stories. Topics will include stories behind our sanctuary's stained glass, as well as understanding the major building additions made in the 1960s and 2000s. The identical tour, will last around 60 minutes, will be offered twice on Sunday March 26, the first starting at noon and the second at 1:30 pm. Availability will be limited to around twenty per tour, so please register early. Tours will start at the front of the sanctuary. Please register by [using this link](#) or by reaching out to Ann-Marie in the church office.

The North Park Readers will meet in the home of Helen Arkema, 5837 N Bernard St., on Tuesday, March 28, at 7 pm. Our book selection is *A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This is the first Sherlock Holmes novel where Mr. Sherlock Holmes is introduced along with John Watson. You are welcome to join in the discussion.

We invite you to join us for an evening Lenten service each week. In addition to our Sunday morning services at 10:30, we will gather for contemplative worship services each Sunday evening in Lent beginning at 6 pm. These 45-minute services will take place in the south chapel. We began on February 26 and will each Sunday evening through March 26. Join us for a time of quiet prayer, music, singing, and communion. Come and worship as we journey to the cross.

North Park Church Cooperative Preschool invites you to a Dine 'n' Share! On Thursday, March 30, you're invited to make your way to SmashBurger (4709 W Foster Ave, Chicago) for a meal that will benefit the Preschool. They need at least 20 people to RSVP, [using this link](#), by Monday, March 27, in order for the fundraising event to take place. [Please show this flyer](#) at check-out. Thank you for your support!

The Spring Prayer Vigil for 2023 is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, from 7 am to 9 pm. During the season of Lent, we have been looking at Jesus' ministry, and how he encouraged people to believe in him as God's son and defended himself as the Messiah! Boring redemptive holes in religious certainty and performing jaw-dropping miracles, he was authenticating his supernatural abilities, and ever since he has urged us to take advantage of them, too, through prayer. Here is another opportunity for us to pray corporately as he encourages us in his Word! To sign up for a half-hour slot (or more), [please use this form](#).

There is an ongoing need in the church for volunteers in childcare, ushering, and hospitality. If you are interested in helping out in any of these ways, [please click here](#) and fill in a couple of dates. If everyone in the church signed up for two dates, we would be covered for a long time!

The text for today's choral anthem is as follows:

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake

Richard Farrant

Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives,
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk with a perfect heart before Thee now and evermore,

One of the privileges we share as a part of the Evangelical Covenant Church is representation at our denomination's decision-making meetings. Each year, the Central Conference, of which we are a part, hosts its meeting in the spring. Additionally, each year, the ECC holds its annual meeting in the early summer. We want to send representatives to both! Based on the size of our congregation, we can send up to four (4) delegates, whose primary responsibility is to sit in on the business meetings, ask questions, and vote as representatives of NPCC when called to do so. The church will cover your expenses. This year's meeting dates:

- April 28-30: Central Conference Annual Meeting in Gladstone, MI

- June 28 - July 1: "Gather" (Denominational Annual Meeting) in Garden Grove, CA

Please let Pastor Jeff or Pastor Libby know if you are interested in serving as a delegate to either of these meetings!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday

We invite you to join us at 9:15 am for a palm processional through the neighborhood, followed by a light breakfast in the parlors before our 10:30 am worship service. Meet us in the south garden to process through the neighborhood, and stay for breakfast and a time to journey through the liturgy of the palms and the passion.

Wednesday, April 5: No gather dinner

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday Service

Join us at 7 pm as we commemorate the Last Supper and share in the washing of feet.

Friday, April 7: Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Join us at 7 pm to journey through the Service of Shadows.

Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday

All are welcome to return to the sanctuary at 10:30 am to celebrate the resurrected Christ!

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 21

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid)
- 10 am Peterson Organ Lesson (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 7 pm Young Adult Gathering (Staff Conference Room)

Wednesday, March 22

- 10 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid)
- 5 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)
- 6 pm *gather* Dinner (Parlors)
- 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7 pm Middle-school Youth Group (Middle-school Youth Room)

Thursday, March 23

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)
- 8:15 pm Swanson Basketball (Gym)

Friday, March 24

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (North Room)
- 4 pm Girl Scouts (Gym)

Saturday, March 25

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 9 am New Members Class (Large Conference Room)
- 10:30 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, March 26 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9 am Confirmation (Large Conference Room)
- 9:15 am Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
- 9:15 am Adult Formation (Parlors)
- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal (Junior Chapel)
- 12 pm 125th-anniversary Architectural Tour (Sanctuary - RSVPs Required)
- 1:30 pm 125th-anniversary Architectural Tour (Sanctuary - RSVPs Required)
- 6 pm Lenten Worship Service (South Chapel)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

North Park Covenant

Church Staff

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*To reach both Jeff and Libby, please use
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Dominic German, Director, Chancel Choir and
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Administrative Director

Lyndsey Wellner
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Missionaries We Support

John and Letha Kerl,
Field Representatives for Europe

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,
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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