



NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

OCTOBER 29, 2023
+ REFORMATION SUNDAY +

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PRELUDE

Fughetta on Praise Be to Almighty God
J.S. Bach
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

INTROIT

Psalm 100
Brian Ward

Children's Vocal Ensemble, Brian Ward, Director

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!
Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is good; it is He who made us.

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving.
Enter His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him and praise His name;
for His love endures forever.

His faithfulness continues for all generations.
His love endures.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
God speaks, and the earth melts.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord!
**God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
God breaks the bow, shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

Be still, and know that the Lord is God!
**God is exalted among the nations;
God is exalted in the earth.**

The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 464

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May 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

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Andrew Clauson, Reader

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

ANTHEM

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty (61)

arr. Wesley Hanson

Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

PASTORAL PRAYER

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Led by Anders Johnson, Robert Johnson, Sunwoo Lee,

Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Trustees will come around at this time to receive physical offerings.

Giving online at any time is also an option [here](#).

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

The Church's One Foundation

arr. Chris Rice

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 1

Rise, Shine, You People!

* RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

For all that God can do within us,

for all that God can do without us,

thanks be to God!

For all in whom Christ lived before us,

for all in whom Christ lives beside us,

thanks be to God!

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,

for where the Spirit wants to send us,

thanks be to God!

The blessing of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—

be with you and on your way together,

now and forever.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Recessional on *Ein Feste Burg*

arr. Michael Ryan

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

464

1 A might-y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
 3 And tho' this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;

our help - er he a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 were not the right one on our side, the one of God's own choos - ing.
 we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to tri - umph through us.
 the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe—his craft and, pow'r are
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he—Lord Sab - a - oth his
 The prince of dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him—his rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so—the bod - y they may

great, and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 dure, for lo, his doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still: his king - dom is for - ev - er. A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

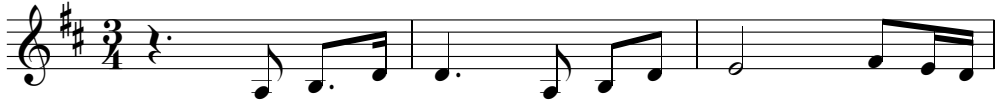
887

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.

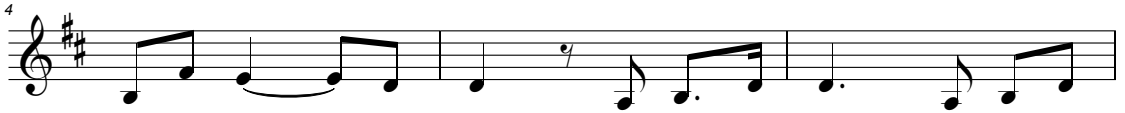
Traditional

In Christ Alone

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
 2. In Christ a - lone who took on flesh, Ful - ness of
 3. There in the ground His bo - dy lay: light of the
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song. This cor - ner - stone, this so - lid
 God in help - less babe! This gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain. Then burst - ing forth in glor - ious -
 power of Christ in me; From life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fier - cest drought and
 ness scorned by the ones He came to
 day, up from the grave He rose a -
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -



storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 save: Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the love of
 gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry sin's curse has
 ny. No power of hell, no scheme of man can e - ver



stilled, when stri - vings cease! My com - for - ter, my All in
 God was mag - ni - fied, for e - very sin on Him was
 lost its grip on me, for I am His and He is
 pluck me from His hand, 'till He re - turns or calls me



All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine: bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

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

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

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
 MUSIC: attrib. Louis Bourgeois, c.1510-c.1561; arr. Geneva Psalter, 1551

L.M.
 OLD 100th (alt. rhythm)

Rise, Shine, You People!

1

In unison

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered our
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing; he
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing, your
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us. Tell

hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 brings us free - dom, light, and life and heal - ing. All men and
 songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the

us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **Sally Johnson**, home again after being hospitalized with COVID
- **Lee Horten**, recuperating after breaking his leg
- **Kari Lindholm-Johnson**, undergoing chemotherapy for ovarian cancer
- **for the conflict** in the Middle East
- **Jim Hosek**, still without answers as to the source of the pain he is experiencing
- Janice Finney's brother-in-law, **Tim Rohr**, diagnosed with cancer

Praying for Our Neighborhood in 2023

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



The flowers at the front of the sanctuary today are from Sandy Edstrom in loving memory of her husband, Art, whose birthday was October 29.

Today after worship, we will hold a town hall to review and discuss the events of the denominational annual meeting, held in Garden Grove, California, last June. A light lunch will be provided.

Christmas greens sales have begun! Again this year, we are selling Christmas greenery for your homes as a way of supporting our youth ministries. Physical order forms are available in the narthex and the parlors, or you may use [this online form](#). This year, all proceeds are going to the [UNITE 2024](#) fund! The deadline to order is Sunday, November 5, and pick-up will take place on Sunday, November 19, from 12 to 2 pm. If you have any questions, please email Jeanette at jmottl@npcovenant.org.

Next Sunday, November 5, is All Saints' Sunday! If you would like to display a photo of a loved one at the front of the church, please feel free to bring it to the church office during the week or come a little early on the 5th and place it up front with the others.

Join us for a two-part series on November 8 and 15: Videotaped interviews done with some of our very own (former) members who served in World War II. Each night we will enjoy Gather dinner together, beginning at 6 pm. The video will start at 6:15 and run for about 45 minutes. Following, there will be time for dessert and conversation. Sign up for one night or both! [Please RSVP](#) by November 6.

NPCC presents a Taqueria Las Flores Kitchen Pop-up! Jazmin Flores, owner of Taqueria Las Flores, for which we prayed after they experienced a devastating fire, is going to be cooking in our kitchen, making foods for a menu she calls "Convivir"; a Spanish idiom meaning "to experience life together". [Pre-orders from this menu](#) will be taken until November 8 (or up to 50 orders, whichever comes first!), and then you will be able to come to church to pick up your food between 5:30 and 6:45 pm on November 10. Quantities are limited! Pre-orders only!

Lay Leaders' Commissioning: We have had a full fall season at NPCC and, with all that has been happening, we haven't had time to pray for and commission the lay leaders among us who give so generously and mindfully to the work of the church. But it's never too late! So, if you are a lay leader in the church, we hope you will make every effort to be present in Sunday morning worship on November 12 for a prayer of commissioning, blessing, and gratitude as we continue together in Kingdom work.

Sunday, November 26, is Covenant World Relief and Development Sunday. We invite you to begin collecting coins in your CWR soup cans (or another receptacle of your choice), and bring it to church anytime between November 22 and 26. Labels and lids are available in the narthex today. [Donations can also be made here](#), selecting "World Relief" from the drop-down menu.

Would you like offering envelopes for 2024? If you are not currently on our list to receive a box of envelopes but would like to be, please let Ann-Marie in the church office know. And if you are currently on our list but would rather not be because you give online, please let Ann-Marie know that, too!

The Peterson School Tutoring Program hopes to start up again by the first week in November, but we need tutors! If you're able to be at church on Mondays from 4 to 5:30 pm and/or from 6:30 to 8 pm, please contact Christine Olfelt at olfelt@sbcglobal.net or 312-914-7712.

Blankets Needed: Many of you are aware that the former Marine base at 3034 W. Foster now houses roughly 550 migrant families, primarily from Venezuela. Many thanks to all who have been generous in thinking of ways to be helpful and in giving of time and needed items to these families. One thing we're hearing is that the building is very cold, so we are partnering with the Hollywood-North Park Community Association to collect blankets for the families living there. Please bring new (preferably) and used (if in good shape and recently washed) twin and/or throw-size blankets to the church until November 15 so they can be delivered to the building directly. Thank you!

The North River Commission is appreciative of the donations received for migrants coming to our area. Please bring donations in boxes or bags, as that makes transporting them much easier. Thank you!

Those who would like to support our Biking for Congo participants may do so using these links:

- [Wally Ebner](#) or by searching for Wallace Ebner
- [Joline Paska](#) or by searching for Joline Paska
- [Sue Vandervoort](#) or by searching for Susan Vandervoort

Covenant Living of Northbrook invites you to a *Festival of Hymns: Walking with God through the Day* on Sunday, November 5, at 4 pm. This will be an inspirational time of singing great hymns of faith, led by Royce Eckhardt. Covenant Living is located at 2625 Techny Road, Northbrook.

Why Do We Celebrate the Reformation?

On October 31, 1517, a 34-year-old German monk named Martin Luther nailed a document containing 95 theses, or propositions, to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral.

In those theses, Luther attacked the prevailing understanding of his age that the Christian Church had the power, through the sacraments, to ensure a person's salvation. Luther also strongly challenged a related concept—that we are saved, or made right with God, by virtue of the things we do. Rather, Luther said, being in right relationship with God, or our salvation, comes about as a gift of God. It is grace. We do not earn this grace by our works or the things we do. Rather, being made right is God's free gift, or grace, given to whomever God chooses. Those who know and experience that sense of grace will then seek to live as

they believe God intends them to. Trying to live a faithful life is the result of experiencing God's grace, and feeling oneself in right relationship with God, is not a necessary precondition to experiencing God's love and grace. Luther's understanding quickly gained wide support and initiated what we now know as the Protestant Reformation. Other church leaders in Switzerland (Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin), Scotland (John Knox), and England (Thomas Cranmer) picked up Luther's ideas, modified some of them, and started other movements to reform the church. We are the inheritors of this tradition.

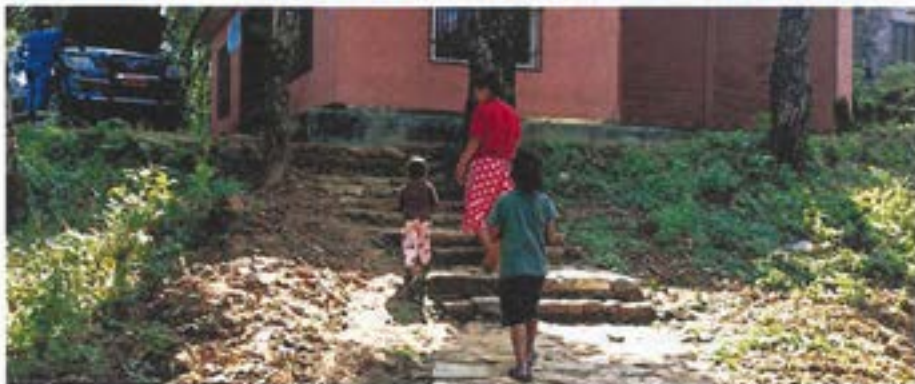
Luther's conviction about being saved by God's grace came from a sudden insight as he wrestled with a passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans. For Luther and other Reformation leaders, scripture was the primary means through which we hear God's Word. They did not believe the Bible is the literal Word of God, but they did believe that as we read scripture and wrestle with it, collectively in worship as well as in individual and group study, we can hear God's Word to us and for us.



CWRD UPDATE

FALL 2023

Creating Pathway to Health Care in Nepal



Families access health care center in Nepal on new path

Working with families of the Gorkha District in rural Nepal, Shanti Nepal helps organize and provide quality health care services, education, and supplies for the most disadvantaged in the community. More than 3,700 women, children, and families have received basic health care support.

In addition, Shanti Nepal seeks to reach people with disabilities and others marginalized by the caste system.

One issue facing the medical center was that patients needed to navigate a muddy hill to receive necessary medical attention. Mr. Jas Bahadur Aale Magar, a retired veteran from India, had developed skills in engineering in the army. He committed to constructing a stone walkway, making the Satdobate Health Center safe and accessible. Health centers like this are the only places where basic needs such as prenatal care and medication can be addressed. Completing the pathway

enhances the powerful impact this center has on this community.

Shanti Nepal also empowers community transformation through advocacy. The reorganized community-based advisory boards have worked closely with families and city government to provide medicine and education, specifically working to educate and provide safe drinking water and basic hygiene for the community. **Surveys of stakeholders conducted by the advisory board have indicated only 6% of the respondents have a clean and sanitary toilet in their homes. Safe drinking water is also a major concern as only 24% of homes have access to the city water supply, with less than 1% indicating they have a consistent location for hand washing.** Through Shanti Nepal's advocacy, municipal officials, and the advisory boards, family and group education has shown a sustained change for the Gorkha District and the surrounding communities.

CWRD Year in Review

JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

Thank you for your generous support and partnership with Covenant World Relief & Development.

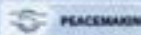
Here is a glimpse of your support of CWRD this year

\$1.1M sent to 28 partners in 18 countries for

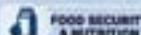
39 community development projects



CLEAN WATER



PEACEMAKING



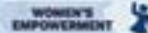
FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION



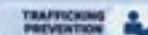
MICROENTERPRISE



COMMUNITY HEALTH



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



TRAFFICKING PREVENTION & CARE



AGRICULTURE



REFUGEE CARE

\$1.75M GRANTED

\$517K

19 DISASTER RESPONSE GRANTS IN 9 COUNTRIES

including

\$250K for the Ukraine response

\$80K for the Turkey/Syria earthquake

\$120K

WAS GRANTED THROUGH THE FREE INITIATIVE

6 domestic & 4 international projects focused on fighting sex trafficking.

16

GRANTS* serving refugees and IDP (Internally Displaced People) from at least 7 different countries

*INCLUDING BOTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE GRANTS

\$666,793

RAISED FOR WASH (WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE) INITIATIVES

Covenant Kids Congo raised funds from 29 churches and 328 individuals for WASH initiatives in the DR Congo through Team World Vision.

ALSO THIS YEAR

\$1 MILLION+

CWRD SURPASSED OUR \$1M MILESTONE GOAL OF DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE

From 2021 until now, CWRD has raised a total of \$1.04M and counting in designated funds for Ukraine from 140 churches and 1230 individuals.

100% of every gift to CWRD goes to ministry. 90% of every gift goes directly to ministry programs. God has blessed us with increased partnerships and projects. We depend fully on you to continue this ministry. If you would like to learn more about giving to CWRD, please go to giving.covchurch.org/cwrd.



100% of every gift to CWRD goes to ministry. 90% of every gift goes directly to ministry programs. Learn more and give at CovChurch.org/cwrd

@covenantworldreliefanddevelopment

@covworldreliefanddevelopment



The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, October 30

- 9:15 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid)
- 10:15 am NPCCP 3s Halloween Party (Gym)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
- 7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, October 31

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid)
- 10:15 am NPCCP Young 3s Halloween Party (Gym)
- 2:15 pm NPCCP 4s Halloween Party (Gym)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5 pm Night of the Walking Taco (Corner of Christiana & Berwyn)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 7 pm Executive Council Meeting (Large Conference Room)

Wednesday, November 1

- 10 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid)
- 6 pm Gather Dinner (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7 pm Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study (Large Conference Room)

Thursday, November 2

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary/Gym)
- 8:15 pm Swanson Basketball (Gym)

Friday, November 3

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (North Room)

Saturday, November 4

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10:30 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 12 pm Interscriptural Readings Group (Large Conference Room)
- 5 pm Reed Group Piano Lesson (Sanctuary)

Sunday, November 5

- 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)
- 11:45 am Special Coffee Hour (Parlors)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

North Park Covenant

Church Staff

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, Director of Youth Ministry
jmottl@npcovenant.org

Brian Ward, Music Ministry Coordinator/Organist
bward@npcovenant.org

Dominic German, Director, Chancel Choir and
Chancel Handbell Choir
dgerman@npcovenant.org

Joline Paska, Treasurer
treasurer@npcovenant.org, ext. 505

Christian Schuetz, Custodian
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

Ann-Marie O. Frisk, Church Administrator
afrisk@npcovenant.org, ext. 500

North Park Church Cooperative Preschool

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

2711 West Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Justin Block
Executive Director
justin@friendshipcenterchicago.org

(773) 907-6338
info@friendshipcenterchicago.org
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

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.

5250 NORTH CHRISTIANA AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625
NPCC@NPCOVENANT.ORG • (773) 463-0055 • WWW.NPCOVENANT.ORG