



NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

NOVEMBER 19, 2023
+ THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Enter His Courts with Praise
Adam Mason
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski

125th-Anniversary Video: The Church in the Neighborhood

CHORAL INTROIT

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee (297)
Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

Our frailty is revealed when we trust only in ourselves.

Help us to begin day after day focused on your steadfast love,
so that each day will be filled with joy and gladness.

Teach us, O God, to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 515

We Come to Our Eternal God

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Nancy Ebner, Reader
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18a
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing
Gordon Young

HOMILY

Libby Piotrowski

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Refiner's Fire
Brian Doerksen

1990 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)
Vineyard Songs Canada (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Led by Emma Hunter, Jeanette Mottl, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 [here](#).

Offertory

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Helen H. Lemmel

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 628

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Psalm 19
Benedetto Marcello

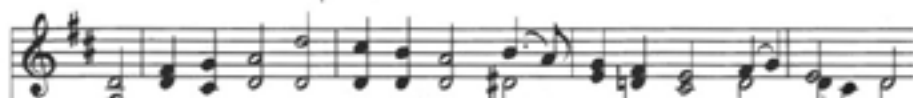
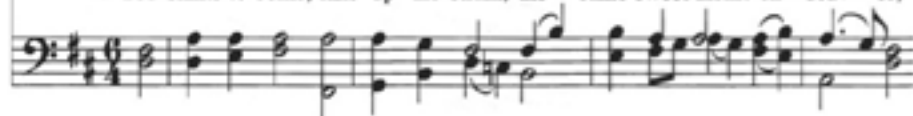
** Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

We Come to Our Eternal God

515



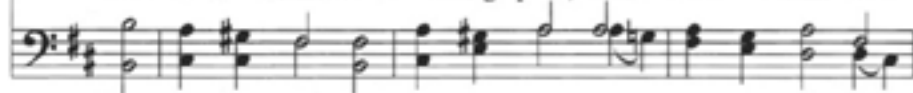
1 We come to our e - ter - nal God, the rock of our sal - va - tion;
 2 The fire di - vine their steps that led still goes as bright be - fore us;
 3 Their joy un - to their Lord we bring, their song to us de - scend - ing,
 4 You saints to come, take up the strain, the same sweet theme en - deav - or;



th'e - ter - nal arms, our dear a - bode, we make our hab - i - ta - tion.
 the heav'n - ly shield a - round them spread is still high lift - ed o'er us.
 the Spir - it who in them once sang to us his mu - sic lend - ing
 un - bro - ken be the gold - en chain! Keep on the song for - ev - er!



We bring you, Lord, the praise once brought, we seek you as your
 The grace those sin - ners that sub - dued, the strength those weak - lings
 his song in them, in us, is one; we raise it high, we
 Safe in the same dear dwell - ing place, rich with the same e -



saints have sought in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.
 that re - newed, does van - quish and re - store us.
 send it on— the song is nev - er end - ing.
 ter - nal grace, bless the same bound - less Giv - er. A - men.



WORDS: Thomas H. Gill, 1819-1906, alt.
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchenpsalme, 1566

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.
 MIT FREUDEN ZART

A higher setting can be found at 541.

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

Refiner's Fire

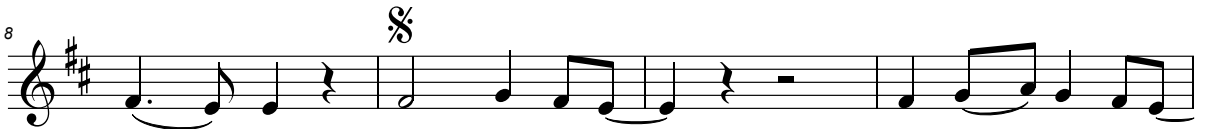
Brian Doerksen



1. Pu - ri - fy my heart, let me be as gold and
2. Pu - ri - fy my heart, cleanse me from with - in and



pre - cious sil - ver; Pu - ri - fy my heart, let me be as gold
make me ho - ly; Pu - ri - fy my heart, cleanse me from my sin



pure gold. Re - fin - er's fire, my heart's one de - sire
deep with - in.



is to be ho - ly, set a - part for You,



Lord. I choose to be ho - ly, set a - part for You,



my Mas - ter, read - y to do Your will.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

System 1:
 Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all crea-tures

System 2:
 here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host;

System 3:
 praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 628

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me — an - y - where, Lord,

an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!) I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can
 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

use me — an - y - where, Lord,
 (my Lord,) an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Wendell Whalum, 1932-1987,
 © The Wendell Whalum Estate, c/o Mrs. Wendell Whalum

Irregular
 I'M GONNA LIVE

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

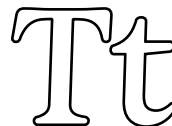
We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **Patti Rasmussen & Larry Anderson and family**, mourning the loss of their daughter Magdalena
- Cheryl Borgeson's sister **Anne Erickson**, diagnosed with C diff
- **Lyubov and Lilly Milostrazich**, mourning the passing of their husband and father, Robert, on October 24
- **Jan, Travis, and Jess Klingberg**, mourning the sudden passing of their husband and father, 'Don
- Rosemary Slaughter's friend **Debbie Williams**, diagnosed with cancer
- **Christian Schuetz and family**, mourning the passing of his father, Peter, on November 6
- Jon Boyd's 87-year-old father, **Bill Boyd**, recovering after breaking his hip
- **Ted Helwig**, continuing to experience heart-related symptoms
- **Kari Lindholm-Johnson**, undergoing chemo and receiving positive reports thus far

Praying for Our Neighborhood in 2023

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

The image shows the letters 'Tt' in a large, outlined, serif font. The 'T' is uppercase and the 't' is lowercase. They are positioned to the right of the text in the box.

Childcare is available in the Toddler Room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) for the full duration of the worship service for any wee ones ages 1 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and squirm. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

Please stay after worship today for a brief town hall to discuss how Employee Retention Credit monies we received over the summer might be divided. A subsequent congregational meeting will take place on December 3, to vote on the division of that money. We will call another gathering at a later date to determine together how the church's portion might be used for the glory of God and for our neighbors' good.

If you ordered Christmas greens, they will be available for pick-up from 12 to 2 pm today,

You are invited to join us for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 22, at 7 pm, followed by a pie social in the parlors. If you are willing and able to bring a pie or two (store-bought or homemade), or if you can help set up, serve, or clean up, [please sign up here](#). Thank you!

Please join us for a special Christ the King Sunday all-church breakfast on Sunday, November 26, beginning at 9:15 am in our church parlors. There will be no formal Sunday School that week, so please join us for fellowship, coffee, juice, and a yummy breakfast. After eating, we will gather in the columbarium to burn the palms from last Palm Sunday to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday, and will be done in time for 10:30 am worship. All are welcome!

Covenant World Relief and Development Sunday is November 26! Whether you're collecting your coins in a soup can or planning to write a check or make an online donation, you may bring those funds to church either at the Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 22, or to church on Sunday, November 26. Soup labels and lids are available in the narthex. 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.

North Park Church Cooperative Preschool is hosting a Holiday Market on Saturday, December 2, from 9 am - 12 pm in the church parlors. Come peruse unique gifts, kids' crafts, seasonal treats, and participate in a mystery raffle! And, if you're interested in setting up a table at the market to sell your own handmade holiday gifts (soaps, candles, knitted items, ornaments, etc.), [please fill out this form](#). If you have questions, please reach out to Administrative Director Becky Edwards at preschool@npcovenant.org for more information.

Uniting Voices Chicago, one of our community partners, will be performing two holiday programs on Saturday, December 2, at Symphony Center downtown! The Albany Park Neighborhood Choir, which rehearses in our church, will perform in the matinee performance at 2:30 pm that day. [Get your tickets now.](#)

Advent Bible Journaling to Begin December 3: Join Kristen Hunter each Sunday morning in Advent, starting at 9:15 am in the art room (lower level just south of the coffee lounge) to journal through the Advent texts and beyond. Bring a Bible and journal, or make a journal when you arrive. Art supplies will be provided.

The Peterson School Tutoring Program has started up again, but we still 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.

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

Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing

Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing our great redeemer's praise;
that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!

All ye servants of the Lord, praise Him forever.
Sing Jehovah's mighty power, praise Him forever.
Sing of His righteousness, praise Him forever.

So let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise;
that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, November 20

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

Tuesday, November 21

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid, Large Conference Room)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 7 pm Executive Council Meeting (Large Conference Room)

Wednesday, November 22

- 10 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid, Large Conference Room)
- 7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 8 pm Thanksgiving Pie Social (Parlors)

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed

Friday, November 24 - Office Closed

Saturday, November 25

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

Sunday, November 26 - Christ the King Sunday

- 9:15 am All-church Breakfast (Parlors) followed by
Palm Burning (Columbarium)
- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

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North Park Covenant

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North Park Church

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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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