



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

NOVEMBER 17, 2024
+ THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Trio
Julius Reubke
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter
Stewardship Committee

Moment for Mission

CHORAL INTROIT

Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty (517)
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from 1 Samuel 2

Then Hannah prayed:

“My heart rejoices in the Lord!

The Lord has made me strong.

Now I have an answer for my enemies;

I rejoice because you rescued me.

No one is holy like the Lord!

There is no one besides you;

there is no Rock like our God.

He lifts the poor from the dust

and the needy from the garbage dump.

He sets them among princes,

placing them in seats of honor.

For all the earth is the Lord's,

and he has set the world in order.

* OPENING HYMN 27

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

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

Jeanette Mottl

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Linnea Applequist, Reader

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 1:4-20

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 10:11-14

* Gospel Reading

Mark 13:1-8

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord of Harvest
Healey Willan

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.

By him the clouds drop richness, the deserts bloom and spring.
The hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
He filleth with His fullness all things with large increase;
He crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.

Heap on His sacred altar the gifts His goodness gave:
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls He died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him when at His feet ye fall,
and with your lives adore Him, who gave His life for all.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Refiner's Fire

Brian Doerksen

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

Vineyard Songs Canada (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,
Brian Ward, Lauren Wargaski, 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 at www.npcovenant.org/give.

Offertory

Andantino poco Allegretto

César Franck

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 469

How Can I Keep from Singing?

* BENEDICTION

** 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.*

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above 27

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made in mer - cy he is
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, thro' all grief dis -
 4 So all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud his

a - tion, the God of pow'r, the God of love, the God of our
 keep - ing, by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade he watch - es with -
 tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, our peace and joy -
 prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song my voice un - wea -

sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
 out sleep - ing; with - in the king - dom of his might, Lo!
 and bless - ing; as with a moth - er's ten - der hand he
 ried rais - es; be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both

ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 leads his own, his cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 soul and bod - y, bear your part: to God all praise and glo - ry!

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1640-1690, tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesänge*, 1566; arr. Heinrich Reimann, nineteenth century

8.7.8.7.8.8.7.
 MIT FREUDEN ZART

A higher setting can be found at 541.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a series of chords and single notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time 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 of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The upper staff features a mix of chords and moving lines. The lower staff provides a steady harmonic support with chords and single notes.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The upper staff ends with a final cadence, and the lower staff provides a final harmonic accompaniment. The music ends with a double bar line.

How Can I Keep from Singing?

In unison F Gm/F

1 My life flows on in end - less song a -
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a

F/A Gm9/C C7 F

bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion. I hear the real, though
 hear that mu - sic ring - ing; it sounds and ech - oes
 hear their death - knells ring - ing; when friends re - joi - ce both
 foun - tain ev - er spring - ing. All things are mine since

Gm/F F/C Gm9/C C F *Refrain (in harmony)*

far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 in my soul; how can I keep from sing - ing? No
 far and near, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 I am his; how can I keep from sing - ing?

F C7/G F/A F C7 F

storm can shake my in - most calm, while to that rock I'm

VICTORY IN CONFLICT

F F C7/G F/A F B♭ F

cling - ing. Since Christ is Lord of heav - en and earth, how

F/C Gm9/C C7 F Ending

can I keep from sing - ing?

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online! *We're glad you're here.*

For your prayers this week:

- **Diane Haglund**, recuperating after surgery on November 14
- **Craig Johnson**, Pastor Libby's dad, home again after another stay in rehab
- **Kevin Wendt**, Ryan's dad, undergoing chemo treatments
- **Peter Joly**, Rosemary Slaughter's building manager, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- **the Mohammed Amin family**, who NPCC sponsored last summer, in need of new and affordable housing in the next few weeks, as their building they live in is being sold
- **Dorothy Schmidt**, in search of a new apartment; and her nephews **Jeff Kohn** and **David Schmidt**, anticipating medical procedures

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church! If



you're new here today, we invite you to scan the QR code to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

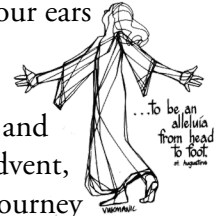
Childcare is available in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) during the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

The flowers at the front of the sanctuary today were given by Mary and Keith Chase-Ziolek in memory of Zoey Hope Chase-Ziolek, who would have turned 10 years old tomorrow, November 18.

Thinking Ahead to 2025: November at our church finds us looking to our annual practice of considering our financial commitment to North Park Church. We are grateful to those who make North Park Church part of their annual giving plan, and as you prepare financially for 2025, please consider completing a pledge card to assist the budget committee as they prepare and propose next year's budget. Pledge card were mailed out to members and friends, and extra copies are available in the office, or you can pledge online by [clicking here](#). Thank you for joining us in mission for 2025!

Neighborhood Prayer in 2024

As we come to the end of both the calendar year and the church year, we are encouraged to pray with our eyes and our ears for our neighborhoods and communities. As we are bombarded with the sights and sounds of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas; and as we journey to the stable, may we also live with eyes wide open and ears attuned to the cares and needs of our neighbors, that they, too, would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives.



But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. - Matthew 13:16-17

Help us wrap and pack gifts for the Ventresses! Our church supports the Ventress family in Nome, Alaska. They work with youth and in community development through a bike repair shop between the tundra and the Bering Sea. (You can see a picture and read more on the bulletin board in the church parlors.) At Christmas time in past years, we have sent them a box of Christmas surprises to brighten the long winter days. Would you consider purchasing an item for this project? We will wrap gifts after Gather on Wednesday, November 20. [A list of suggestions can be found here.](#) Please put your name next to the item/s you are willing to purchase and bring them with you to Gather on the 20th. Thank you!

Knit or Not! Beginning Wednesday, November 20, immediately following Gather (and gift wrapping for the Ventresses), join Knit or Not to build community and knit or crochet hats and other winter items for the new arrivals in our community to demonstrate our love and welcome to them. Initially, please bring your own yarn and tools to get started. Simple patterns will be provided, but feel free to bring your own as well. If you would like to participate, but don't have the materials, we will make sure to get some for you. We will discuss a schedule and other details when we get started. If you have any questions, please reach out to Judy Edstrom at 773-866-0647 or edstromjudy5@gmail.com.

Next Sunday, November 24, is Christ the King Sunday and Covenant World Relief & Development (CWRD) Sunday! While Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Formation will happen as regularly scheduled, we invite all who would like to participate to gather in the columbarium at 9:45 am to burn the palms from last Palm Sunday to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Then, during the service that day, those who have been collecting coins in cans or otherwise saving money to bring as an offering to Covenant World Relief & Development may bring those gifts forward during the service on the 24th. CWRD offerings may also be brought to the Thanksgiving Eve service on November 27.

Thanksgiving Service and Pie Social: On Wednesday, November 27, we will not share in our weekly Gather dinner. Instead, all are invited to join us for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service at 7 pm in our sanctuary, 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!

It takes a village to build a little town! We will begin setting up for Little Town of Bethlehem on Wednesday, December 4, after the Gather dinner. Further set-up will take place on Saturday, December 7, from 9 am to 12 noon. We can use as many volunteers as possible for both of these days. If you plan to participate in the Little Town event on December 8, please be sure to attend either or both of the set-up times. Then, on the day of the event, please come to church at 3 pm to get your costume and any supplies you might need. Please reach out to [Pastor Libby](#) or [Lisa Applequist](#) if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Many hands make light and fun work!

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, November 24:**

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14,
(15-18), 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

North Park Church Cooperative Preschool invites you to their Holiday Market! On Saturday, December 14, from 9 am to 1 pm, come to the church parlors to peruse booths set up by local vendors selling their unique wares. There will also be kids crafts, seasonal treats, and a mystery raffle!

On Monday, December 16, we invite you to a Blue Christmas worship service. We recognize that Advent and Christmas can be difficult seasons for many in our community, so we hold this Blue Christmas service as an invitation to pray through the grief, sadness, and disappointment of our real lives. We welcome you, whether you find yourself in this difficult place or you want to be a source of support for those who do. Come to the south chapel at 7 pm for this time of contemplative worship.

Would you like offering envelopes for 2025? If you are not currently on our list to receive a box of envelopes but would like to be, please let Ann-Marie know. And if you are currently on our list but would rather not be because you give online, please let her know that, too! Thanks!

Two library book displays in November! Did you know that Native American Heritage Month is celebrated in November to honor the culture, traditions, and achievements of Native Americans? The first display in the church library this month includes an indigenous translation of the New Testament and several books written by Native American authors. The second book display has the theme of “Being Thankful.” It includes *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* and other books for children and adults. Stop by the library to peruse these books on display.

How will we be generous? Send us your suggestions! When we began the Building with Faithfulness Campaign, we pledged that, as a church, we would tithe on the monies that came in, giving 10% to ministries or organizations outside of the church each year of the three-year campaign. We have now completed the first year of the campaign, and we have roughly \$65,000 dollars to give away.

Now we need your help in coming up with ideas! If you have a suggestion of where we may send this first year’s tithe, please submit it in writing to Pastor Libby or Pastor Jeff by Sunday, December 1. We’ll collect the suggestions and share them with the congregation, voting on our collective decision at the congregational annual meeting on January 26, 2025. Each submission should include the name of the organization or ministry, a brief explanation of what the ministry is, why you feel it’s worthy of receiving money, and the dollar amount suggested. The organization/ministry should be local and serve people locally, and the gift given should allow for building relationships with people.

What a delightful and complex decision we get to make together! How will we be generous with the gifts God has given us?

Volunteers are needed for childcare and hospitality! If you’re able to help out in the toddler room or by serving refreshments after Sunday worship, please [sign up for a Sunday or two here](#).

Monday afternoon tutoring has started with gusto! We have three students who need tutors. Could you be here from 4 to 5:30 pm once a week? If so, please reach out to Christine Olfelt at olfelt@sbcglobal.net.

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, November 18

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

Tuesday, November 19

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 7 pm Executive Council Meeting (Large Conference Room)

Wednesday, November 20

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

Thursday, November 21

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, November 22

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (South Chapel Prayer Corner)

Saturday, November 23

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, November 24 - Christ the King Sunday

- 9 am Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
- 9:15 am Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
Adult Formation (Parlors)
Bible Journaling (Art Room)
- 9:45 am Palm Burning (Columbarium)
- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 5 pm Combined Youth Group Friendsgiving (Parlors)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (South Chapel)

