



*hope*

DECEMBER 1, 2024  
+ THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT +

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PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (135)  
arr. Lani Smith  
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

\* OPENING HYMN 120

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ella Darrow, Chloe Johnson, and Jeanette Mottl

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.” (Jeremiah 33:14) Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

**While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.**

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

*The first candle is lit.*

*We sing together verse 1 of hymn 122, O Zion, Acclaim Your Redeemer!*

Let us pray: **Lord Jesus, we wait with hope; not always patiently or contentedly, but with the hope that you will come again swiftly to this broken world so that justice and love and peace may flood our lands and our hearts. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

Psalter

\* Gospel Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Ryan Wendt, Reader

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Psalms 25:1-10, 14 (Hymnal selection 793)

Luke 21:25-36

# WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

## CHORAL ANTHEM

A Canticle of Peace

Joseph W. Clokey

Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

And it shall come to pass in the latter day  
that the Lord's house shall be established  
in the top of the mountain,  
and many shall go and say:  
Come ye, and let us go into the house of the Lord,  
and he will teach us his way,  
and we will walk in his paths.  
And he shall judge between the nations,  
and shall reprove many nations.  
And they shall beat their swords into plowshares.  
Nation shall not lift sword against nation.  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.  
Come ye, let us walk in the light of the Lord.  
Come.

## MESSAGE

Jeffrey Parker

## \* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Days of Elijah

Robin Mark

1996 Song Solutions Daybreak (Admin. by Song Solutions [www.songsolutions.org](http://www.songsolutions.org))

Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,  
Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

*All who believe in Christ and desire to live a life directed by the Holy Spirit are invited  
to participate in this sacrament. Gluten-free bread is available.*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Cindy Berry

Sam Parnin, Organ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

## 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](http://www.npcovenant.org/give).*

Offertory

Diapason Piece  
Samuel Wesley

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 772

We Wait for a Great and Glorious Day

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION

Wait for the Lord (143)

POSTLUDE

*Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland*  
(Saviour of the Heathen, Come)  
J.S. Bach

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

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

120

*In unison*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine  
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,  
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and cause us in her heart and mind; bid now our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be thy - self our

*In harmony* *In unison*

God ap - pear.  
 put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 ways to go.  
 King of peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## 122 O Zion, Acclaim Your Redeemer!

1 O Zi - on, ac - claim your Re - deem - er! Je - ru - sa - lem, wel - come your King!  
 2 He comes from the joys of the a - ges, he leaves his do - min - ion sub - lime;  
 3 He comes as a ran - som most ho - ly, he dies on the cross for the world;  
 4 He comes from the tomb as a vic - tor, the shad - ows of death clear a - way;  
 5 He comes to the sor - row - ing spir - it and life is re - newed by his hand;

Strew palms on the way for the Sav - ior, his prais - es ex - ul - tant - ly sing.  
 from glo - ry to Beth - le - hem's man - ger he comes in the full - ness of time.  
 re - demp - tion from sin is ac - com - plished, his ban - ner of light is un - furled.  
 the slum - ber - ing saints are a - wak - ened, a - roused from their sleep in the clay.  
 he comes to es - tab - lish a King - dom that shall thro' e - ter - ni - ty stand.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice in your Sav - ior and King!

Re - joice! Re - joice! Ac - claim him your Sav - ior and King!

## RESPONSE

*In harmony*

To you, O Lord, I lift my  
soul, to you I lift my soul.

- I <sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
<sup>2</sup>**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**  
<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
**let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**
- II <sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.  
<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
**for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

## RESPONSE

- I <sup>6</sup>Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
**for they have been from of old.**  
<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
**according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!**

## RESPONSE

- II <sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD;  
**therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**  
<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right,  
**and teaches the humble his way.**  
<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
**for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**  
<sup>14</sup>The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,  
**and he makes his covenant known to them.**

## RESPONSE

# Days of Elijah

Robin Mark



These are the days of E - li - jah, de - clar - ing the Word of the Lord. And  
These are the days of E - zek - iel, the dry bones be - com - ing as flesh. And



these are the days of Your ser - vant, Mo - ses, right - eous - ness be - ing re - stored. And  
these are the days of Your ser - vant, Da - vid, re - build - ing the tem - ple of praise. And



though these are days of great tri - als of fam - ine and dark - ness and sword, still  
these are the days of the har - vest. The fields are white in the world, and



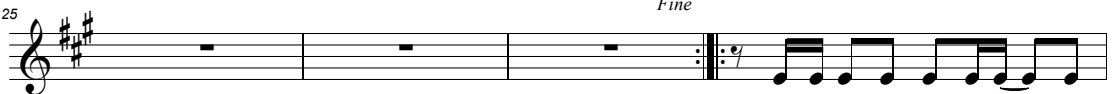
we are the voice in the de - sert, cry - ing "Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord." Be - hold He  
we are the la - bor - ers in Your vine - yard de - clar - ing the Word of the Lord.



comes rid - ing on the clouds shin - ing like the sun at the trum - pet call. Lift your



voice, it's the year of Ju - bi - lee, and out of Zi - on's hill sal - va - tion comes



There is no God like Je - ho - vah,

*D.S. al Fine*



there is no God like Je - ho - vah. There is no God like Je - ho - vah, there is no God like Je - ho - vah.

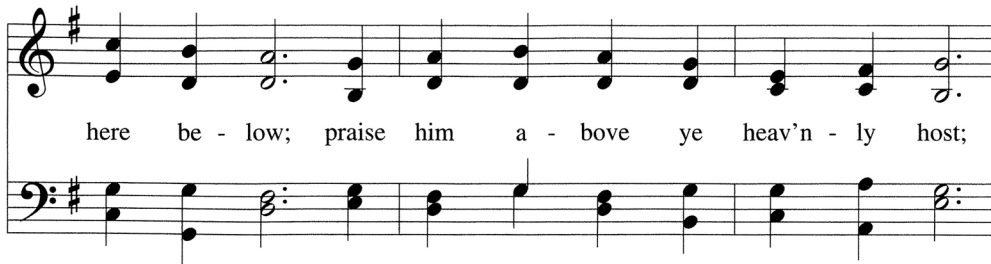


## Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



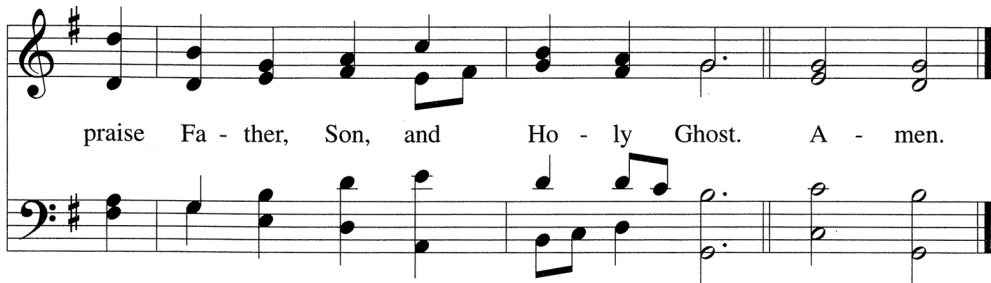
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures

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 continues the 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 chord and a double bar line. The lower staff also concludes with a final chord and a double bar line.

## 772 We Wait for a Great and Glorious Day

1 We wait for a great and glo - ri - ous day, as man - y as  
 2 In glo - ry and pow'r our King shall ap - pear, and call to him -  
 3 For cross - es we've borne, then crowns will be giv'n, for tem - pests, e -  
 4 We know not the day, we know not the hour, when sounds the last  
*Snart ran-das en dag så här - lig och stor för al - la, som*

love the Lord, when shad - ows shall flee, and clouds pass a - way, and  
 self his own; no dis - tance, nor death shall part them as here, nor  
 ter - nal calm; for path - way of thorns, rich man - sions in heav'n, for  
 trump so clear; but loud rings a cry from truth's loft - y tow'r, "The  
*äls - ka Gud. Dess sol ald - rig skymms av skug - gor - nas flor, och*

*Refrain*

weep - ing no more be heard. O won - der - ful day  
 sin, with its pains, be known. O här - li - ga dag,  
 war - fare, the vic - tor's palm. O won - der - ful day  
 day of the Lord is near." O här - li - ga dag,  
*ald - rig hörs kla - gans ljud.*

that soon may be here! O beau - ti - ful hope  
*som ran - das för mig!* O här - li - ga mål

that soon may be here! O beau - ti - ful hope  
*som ran - das för mig!* O här - li - ga mål

SECOND ADVENT

the pil-grim to cheer! Thy com-ing we hail  
 på pil-gri-mens stig! Min läng-tan och blick

the pil-grim to cheer! Thy com-ing we hail  
 på pil-gri-mens stig! Min läng-tan och blick

in tune-ful ac-cord, thou glo-ri-ous day of Christ, our Lord.  
 allt mer till dig drag, du här-li-ga Je-su Kri-sti dag!

in tune-ful ac-cord,  
 allt mer till dig drag,

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

## *For your prayers this week:*

- **Sandy Edstrom**, dealing with severe sciatica and pain in her knees
- **Greg Mesimore**, recuperating after surgery
- **Bruce Strom**, recuperating after a fall in which he broke three ribs
- **Kevin Wendt**, Ryan's dad, as he undergoes chemo treatments
- **Diane Haglund**, recuperating after surgery on November 14 and grateful for a clear scan
- **the Mohammed Amin family**, who NPCC sponsored last summer, needs to find new and affordable housing in the next few weeks, as the building they live in is being sold
- **Dorothy Schmidt** requests prayers for peace as she searches for a new apartment, and for her nephews **Jeff Kohn** and **David Schmidt**, as they face health challenges
- Marti Hindaileh's godson, **Brandon Baglayan**, taking a break from chemo and radiation and awaiting results from a scan on November 27



## **Welcome to North Park Cove-**

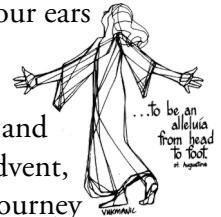
**nant Church!** If you're new here today, we invite you to scan the QR code learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

**Childcare is available** in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) for the full duration of 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 Home of Hope in India is a ministry of Hindustani Covenant Church** and a partner of Covenant World Relief & Development. As part of a ministry helping commercial sex workers leave their oppressive trade, the Home of Hope opens doors to alternate livelihood sources, such as making the communion wafers we're using today. The same women who were living in hopelessness, selling their bodies, are now following Christ and helping others to understand the value of the body of Christ.

## 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*

**Today is a Benevolence Sunday.** Members of the Deacon Board will be at the doors after the service to receive any donations to our benevolence fund, which is used to help those in need in our community.

**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 December 8, please arrive at church at 3 pm.

**There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 8,** immediately after church for the purpose of approving the following:

1. Additional funding of up to \$75,000 for the additional repairs that are needed on the East Wall in the tower stairwell where there is water damage. The money will come from the Building with Faithfulness funds.
2. Approve funding for the replacement of the boiler for the sanctuary building. The current boiler needs to be replaced due to bad heat exchangers. The money for this (\$46,000) will come from undesignated bequests. The repairs to the current boiler will cost almost as much as a new boiler, and the three different companies that have inspected the boiler all recommended purchasing a new, more efficient unit.

**Lectionary texts for  
Sunday, December 8:**

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

**Let's share the warmth of 500 blankets with our new neighbors!** The Hollywood-North Park Community Association (HNPCA) is committed to supporting the dignity, safety, and health of the families who reside at the migrant shelter on Foster Avenue. They are further committed to facilitating their successful integration into our community and its institutions. The HNPCA is asking the community to contribute NEW twin-size blankets and winter coats, hats, gloves, socks, and shoes. You can purchase items directly off of their Amazon Wish List at [hnpca.org](https://www.amazon.com/wish/HNP-CA) or contact them for direct drop-off at [hnpca@hnpca.org](mailto:hnpca@hnpca.org).

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

**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 our 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. To participate in this fundraiser and have your name appear in the Christmas Greetings insert on Sunday, December 15, please fill out the paper form included in today's bulletin or [fill out the online form found here](#) by Wednesday, December 11.

**Gifts 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 put it in one of the ivory envelopes found in the pew racks today, or select "Missionary Gift" from the drop-down menu at [www.npcovenant.org/give](http://www.npcovenant.org/give). Contributions may also be brought to the office during the week. The deadline for these gifts is Tuesday, December 31.

**From our church co-chairs, Susan Dawson and Nancy Ebner:** Here at North Park Covenant Church, we have long traditions of generosity, and one way we practice generosity is to express our thanks and love to our church staff with gifts of money at Christmas. In more ways than we might realize, our gifted and dedicated staff members' ministries are part of God's ongoing work in our lives. You can contribute to this gift at [www.npcovenant.org/give](http://www.npcovenant.org/give), by selecting "Staff Gift" from the dropdown 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. Put it in the offering plate (using the small green envelopes in the pew racks), or on a weekday, drop it off at the church office. Money received will be divided among the staff members. We ask that all contributions reach the church by Sunday, December 15. May the Spirit of God move among us all this Advent season, as we wait and pray: "Come, Lord Jesus."

**The December issue of *The Narthex*,** our monthly newsletter, is available for pick-up today.

**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](#).

**The advent liturgy for today** was adapted from Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

**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 and peruse booths set up by local vendors selling their unique wares. There will also be kids crafts, seasonal treats, and a mystery raffle!

**On Sunday, December 15, Vida Plena Covenant Church invites you** to a service at 1:30 pm, and a festive Christmas Posada to follow from 2:30 to 5 pm. If you have questions, please call Pastor Dany Flores at 872-357-9080.

**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.

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## The Church Calendar This Week

The calendar is available online at [www.npcovenant.org/calendar](http://www.npcovenant.org/calendar) and is updated as changes occur.

### *Monday, December 2*

- 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, December 3*

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

### *Wednesday, December 4*

- 10 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 6 pm Gather Dinner/Little Town of Bethlehem Set-up (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, December 5*

- 8 am East Wall Project Progress Meeting (Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Phillips Soccer Practice (Gym)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### *Friday, December 6*

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (South Chapel Prayer Corner)

### *Saturday, December 7*

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 9 am Little Town of Bethlehem Set-up (Parlors)
- 10 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

### *Sunday, December 8 - The Second Sunday of Advent*

- 9 am Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
- 9:15 am Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)  
Adult Formation (Parlors)  
Bible Journaling (Art Room)
- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 4 pm Little Town of Bethlehem (Parlors)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)  
AA Meeting (South Chapel)

## North Park Covenant

### Church Staff

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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/  
Chancel Choir Director  
bward@npcovenant.org

Sam Parnin, Organist  
sparnin@npcovenant.org

Linnea Olfelt, Chancel Handbell Choir Director

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

Christian Schuetz, Custodian  
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

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

## North Park Church

### Cooperative Preschool

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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

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### 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

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### Missionaries We Support

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Letha Kerl,  
Regional Co-coordinator for Europe

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,  
Latin America

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### Welcome Statement

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*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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