



peace

DECEMBER 8, 2024
+ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT +

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PRELUDE

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
Wilbur Held
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski

CHORAL INTROIT

While We Are Waiting, Come (773)
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Rebecca, Alexei, Suelexia, and Alyssa Rodriguez

The Prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness." (Malachi 3:2b-3)

In a world driven by passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

The second candle is lit.

We sing together verse 2 of hymn 122, O Zion, Acclaim Your Redeemer!

Let us pray: **Lord Jesus, we seek the kind of peace that only you can bring. We seek the peace that heals hearts and mends relationships. We seek the kind of peace that frees the captive and loosens the bonds of the oppressed. We seek to live into that peace. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Light the Fire

Bill Maxwell

1986 Bloodsmith Music

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

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Christine Olfelt, Reader

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:2-11

Luke 3:1-6

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

Comfort Ye, My People

Taylor Davis

Robert Johnson, Bass

Comfort ye, my people, speak ye peace, saith our God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them.

Tell her that her sins I cover and that her warfare is over.

The herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
bidding all men repentance since now the kingdom is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rough places plain.

Let your hearts be comforted as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now o'er the earth's shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Comfort ye, my people

MESSAGE

Jeanette Mottl

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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

Veni Domine (Hymn for Peace)

Pietro A. Yon

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 124

O Promised One of Israel

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Recessional on “Helmsley”

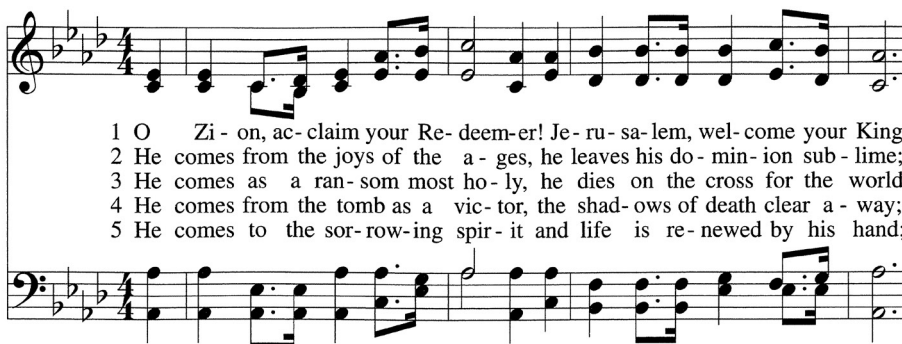
David Lasky

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

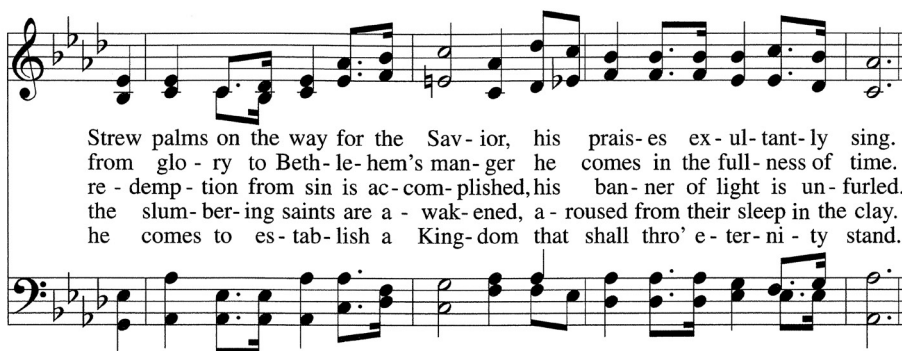
Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.

*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.*

122 O Zion, Acclaim Your Redeemer!

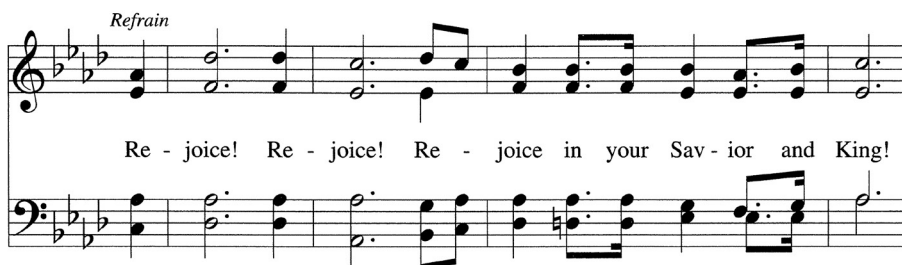


1 O Zi - on, ac - claim your Re - deem - er! Je - ru - sa - lem, wel - come your King!
 2 He comes from the joys of the a - ges, he leaves his do - min - ion sub - lime;
 3 He comes as a ran - som most ho - ly, he dies on the cross for the world;
 4 He comes from the tomb as a vic - tor, the shad - ows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

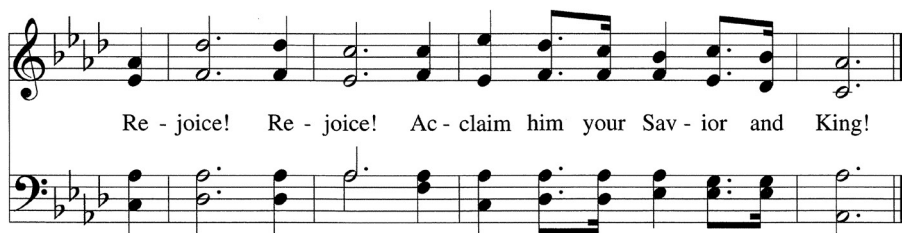


Strew palms on the way for the Sav - ior, his prais - es ex - ul - tant - ly sing.
 from glo - ry to Beth - le - hem's man - ger he comes in the full - ness of time.
 re - demp - tion from sin is ac - com - plished, his ban - ner of light is un - furled.
 the slum - ber - ing saints are a - wak - ened, 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!

Light the Fire

Bill Maxwell

I stand to praise You, but I fall on my knees. My

I stand to praise You, but I fall on my knees. My

The first system of the score consists of two staves in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "I stand to praise You, but I fall on my knees. My".

spir - it is will - ing, but my flesh is so weak. Light the fire

spir - it is will - ing, but my flesh is so weak.

The second system of the score consists of two staves. The melody continues on the treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on the bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "spir - it is will - ing, but my flesh is so weak. Light the fire".

in my soul; fan the flame make me Lord, You know

Light the fire in my wear-y soul; fan the flame make my spir - it

The third system of the score consists of two staves. The melody continues on the treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on the bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "in my soul; fan the flame make me Lord, You know".

14

where I've been, so light the fire in my heart a -

whole, Lord, You know where I've been so light the fire in my heart a -

17

gain. Light the fire in my heart a - gain. I feel Your arms a -

gain. Light the fire in my heart a - gain. I feel Your arms a -

21

round me as the power of Your heal - ing be - gins. You

round me as the power of Your heal - ing be - gins. You

24

breathe new life right through me like a might - y rush-ing wind. Light the fire

breathe new life right through me like a might - y rush-ing wind.

28

in my soul; fan the flame make me whole. Lord, You know
 Light the fire in my wea-ry soul. Fan the flame; make my spi - rit

32

where I've been so light the fire in my heart a -
 whole. Lord, You know where I've been so light the fire in my heart a -

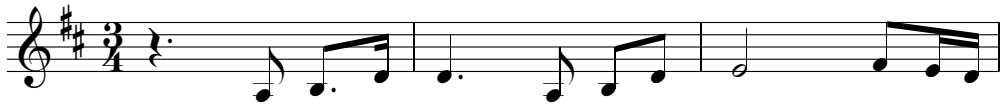
35

gain; Light the fire in my heart a - gain. Light the fire
 gain Light the fire in my heart a - gain.

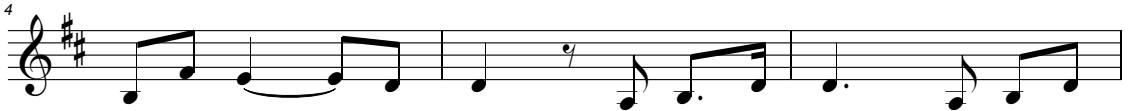
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In Christ Alone

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

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.

O Promised One of Israel

1 O prom - ised one of Is - ra - el by proph - ets long fore -
 2 In si - lent suf - f'ring some a - wait your reign of jus - tice
 3 Cre - a - tion stands a - lert and tense to see your sov - 'reign

told, we wait in ur - gen - cy and hope to
 here, while oth - ers, dulled by wealth and ease, can
 pow'r. You choose to come a ti - ny child re -

see God's will un - fold. The dark of night and
 not ex - plain their fear. When proph - ets spoke and
 vealed this day and hour. O grant us pa - tience

cold pre - dawn a - rouse our anx - ious fears.
 Ma - ry sang of ta - bles o - ver - turned,
 to re - ceive with - out pre - tense or pride

ADVENT: COMING

Help us to see the light a - head through tri - als, doubts, and tears.
dare we ad - mit, in trem - bling awe, our hearts with - in us burned?
the gift of God's re - deem - ing grace: a Sav - ior by our side.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written between the two staves, aligned with the vocal line. The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some notes beamed together. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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

For your prayers this week:

- **Carl Johnson**, Anders Johnson's dad, home again after a cardiac event, but also has blood clots in his legs and lungs
- **Sandy Edstrom**, dealing with severe sciatica and pain in her knees
- **Greg Mesimore**, retired Covenant pastor, home again after being hospitalized for surgery to relieve headaches and pain related to the brain tumor he has been fighting
- **Kevin Wendt**, Ryan's dad, as he undergoes chemotherapy treatments
- **Diane Haglund**, recuperating after surgery on November 14 and grateful for a clear scan
- **Dorothy Schmidt** requests prayers for peace as she searches for a new apartment
- Marti Hindaileh's godson, **Brandon Baglayan**, grateful his tumor is shrinking and anticipating six more weeks of once-weekly chemo



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.

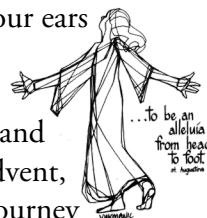
Childcare is available in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) for the full duration of the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need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

There will be a congregational meeting today, immediately after worship, for the purpose of approving the following:

1. Additional funding for the additional repairs needed on the east wall in the tower stairwell.
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 will come from undesignated bequests.

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

There is no coffee hour after worship today, due to the parlors being set for Little Town of Bethlehem.

Today is the day! Little Town of Bethlehem is happening! If you are a volunteer, please be sure to return to the church by 3 pm this afternoon, with your costume and props ready to go. If you will attend as a visitor, please feel free to come anytime between 4 and 6 pm to see the sights, hear the sounds, and taste the flavors of the town of Jesus' birth. Bring a friend!

Staff Away: Ann-Marie will be out of the office on Tuesday, December 10, but will return on Wednesday, December 11. And on Friday, December 13, the staff will have a work day at Pastor Libby's home.

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 have your name appear in the Christmas Greetings insert on Sunday, December 15, *please [fill out the online form found here](#) by Wednesday, December 11.*

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!

Next Sunday, December 15, we invite you to join us for a Service of Lessons & Carols. Come hear the story of Jesus' birth in word and song. Uniting Voices Chicago—Albany Park will be our special guests.

Also on December 15, Vida Plena Covenant Church invites you to a service at 1:30 pm, with 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.

All are invited to join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, December 24, at 5 pm. This whole-family celebration of Christmas will center on singing Christmas carols together and reading a Christmas story with all the children, and we'll close with a candlelit singing of Silent Night.

And you're invited to return on Christmas morning, Wednesday, December 25, at 6:30 am for our traditional Julotta service. It's early, we know. But you'll be glad you came—trust us! We invite you to join us for worship (which will take place mostly in English, but with a little Swedish thrown in for good measure), followed by coffee and a continental breakfast (the Swedes call it *fika*). Reservations are required for the breakfast so we can plan ahead and seat those who are there. To RSVP, please [fill out this form](#) by Wednesday, December 18.

It's time to clear out the Lost & Found! If you think you may have misplaced something here at the church, please feel free to reach out to Ann-Marie in the office to ask if that item is in our lost and found. Anything not claimed by Wednesday, January 15, will be donated or tossed.

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 www.hnpca.org/inclusivecommunity or contact them for direct drop-off at hnpca@hnpca.org.

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 drop it in the offering plate (using the ivory envelopes in the pews) or select "Missionary Gift" from the drop-down menu at www.npcovenant.org/give. The deadline for these gifts is Tuesday, December 31. Thank you!

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, December 15:**

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

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. How does God bless, challenge, and grow you in your walk with Jesus at NPCC? 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, by selecting "Staff Gift" from the drop-down 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 pews), 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."

There is money to help kids go to camp! Registration for summer camps at [Covenant Point](#) and [Covenant Harbor](#) opened on November 12! If you need financial assistance or if your child has a friend who would like to go to camp and needs financial help, please reach out to Libby, Jeff, or Jeanette. Scholarship monies are available!

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 Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, December 9

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

Tuesday, December 10

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5 pm Board of Community Concern Meeting (via Zoom)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 7 pm Board of Deacons Meeting (Hybrid/Staff Conference Room)
Board of Trustees Meeting (Large Conference Room)
- 7:30 pm Board of Christian Formation Meeting (Hybrid/Parlors)

Wednesday, December 11

- 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, December 12

- 8 am East Wall Project Progress Meeting (Large Conference Room)

Friday, December 13

- 9 am-4 pm Fireside Friday Staff Work Day (Piotrowski Home)
- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (South Chapel Prayer Corner)

Saturday, December 14

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 9 am NPCCP Holiday Market (Parlors)
- 10 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 1 pm BravoStudio Recital (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 15 - The Third 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 - A Service of Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)
- 1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 2:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Posada (Parlors)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
AA Meeting (Parlors)

