



NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

DECEMBER 29, 2024
+ THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS +

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PRELUDE

The Wexford Carol
arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter



* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Luke 1:78-79

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us.

God has given light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

God has come to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Let us worship the God who is light in our darkness!

* CHRISTMAS CAROL HYMN SING

Opening Carol 154

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Congregation Requests

Closing Carol 167

The First Noel

All sing verses 1, 2, 5, and 6; Women sing verse 3; Men sing verse 4

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

Bonnie Pfeiffelman, Reader

New Testament Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

* Gospel Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

The Word of the Lord.

Luke 2:41-52

Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Jeff Hunter

* HYMN OF RESPONSE 123

O How Shall I Receive You

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

arr. Tedd Smith

Sandy Edstrom and Brian Ward, Piano

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 188

Go Tell It on the Mountain

* BENEDICTION

from the UMC Discipleship Ministries

Behold! The Lord proclaims to all the earth,

**“Your salvation has come! You are my holy people, the redeemed,
whom I have sought out, never to be forsaken.”**

As God delights and rejoices over you, go in peace, rejoicing in the Lord.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J.S. Bach

** 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.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

154

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light:
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.
 ST. LOUIS

Alternate tune: FOREST GREEN, 473

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full rev - 'rent -
 6 Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in
 to our heav'n - ly Lord; for Christ has our sal -

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.
 va - tion wrought and with his blood our life has bought.

Refrain
 No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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

O How Shall I Receive You

123

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how greet you, Lord, a - right?
 2 Your peo - ple palms are strew - ing, and branch - es fresh and fair;
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion, love brought you down to me;
 4 Re - joice then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

All na - tions long to see you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 my heart, its pow'rs re - new - ing, an an - them shall pre - pare.
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn for joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast,
 My soul puts off its sad - ness your glo - ries to pro - claim;
 O love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace,
 He who a - lone can cheer you is stand - ing at the door;

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 with all its strength and glad - ness it longs to serve your name.
 in love all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
 he brings his pit - y near you and bids you weep no more. A - men.

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 melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of 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 from the first system. It maintains the same musical structure and key signature.

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

The third system of music concludes the piece. It features a final melodic phrase and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line. The key signature and time signature remain consistent with the previous systems.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

188

Refrain (in unison)

F B♭M7/F F Dm Gm B♭/C C F Gm7 C7

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

F B♭M7/F F Dm G7 B♭/C C F B♭/F *Fine*

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

F C/E Dm7 Gm B♭/C C F B♭/F

1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
 2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang and
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

F C/E Dm7 G7 Csus7 Ċ7 D.C.

hold through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

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

For your prayers this week:

- **Diane Haglund**, beginning radiation on December 30 through January 27
- **Sharon Johnson**, Anders Johnson's mom, recuperating after fall in which she broke her pelvis
- **Sandy Edstrom**, experiencing severe sciatica and pain in her knees
- **Greg Mesimore**, retired Covenant pastor, home after surgery related to a brain tumor
- **Kevin Wendt**, Ryan's dad, undergoing chemotherapy treatments for multiple myeloma and processing a new diagnosis of congestive heart failure
- Marti Hindaileh's godson, **Brandon Baglayan**, undergoing six weeks of chemotherapy
- Rosemary Slaughter's cousin, **Larry Mykesell**, diagnosed with COVID, and his wife, **Joanie Mykesell**, anticipating having a pacemaker inserted in the near future



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.

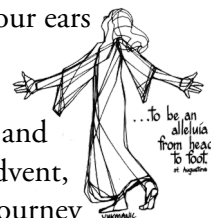
Childcare is available in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) for the full duration of the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need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

Vida Plena, a Spanish-speaking Covenant Church plant that meets here at North Park Covenant Church, invites you to worship every Sunday at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Dany Flores at 872-357-9080.

The January issue of *The Narthex*, our monthly newsletter, is available for pick-up today. Digital copies were emailed out this past Friday. If you would like to receive the newsletter digitally, please reach out to Ann-Marie in the office, and she'll be happy to add you to the distribution list.

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

Staff Away: Pastor Libby will be away from December 26 through January 1. The church office will be closed from December 25 through January 2, but Pastor Jeff and Ann-Marie will be around and available, if any needs arise.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, January 5:**

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

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 me to ask if that item is in our lost and found. Anything not claimed by Wednesday, January 15, will be donated or tossed.

From the family of Ken Johnson (father of NPCC member Elizabeth Johnson and long-time member of Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church), following their notice of his passing in August: A celebration of Ken's life will take place on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at First Baptist Church, 1900 Gandy Blvd N, St Petersburg, FL 33702, at 1 pm CT/2 pm ET. For those who would like to attend virtually, [the service will be available via livestream here.](#)

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 30 - Office Closed

6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, December 31- Office Closed

6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, January 1 - Happy New Year! - Office Closed

Thursday, January 2- Office Closed

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

Saturday, January 4

8 am Geezerball (Gym)
10 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
12:30 pm Simpson Birthday Party (Gym) - Private

Sunday, January 5

9:15 am Intergenerational Sunday School (Parlors)
10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Sanctuary)
7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

