

NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

FEBRUARY 23, 2025
+ THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY +

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PRELUDE

Pastorale
César Franck
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



INTROIT

We Come with Joyful Hearts
Michael Bedford
Children's Choir, Brian Ward, Director

We come with joyful hearts before the Lord
We come to raise our songs again
His name is here and everywhere adored
Hallelujah, Amen.

We come with grateful hearts before the Lord
We come to give Him thanks again
We come to share His love and preach His word
Hallelujah, Amen.

We come to ask forgiveness for misdeeds
We seek the help of God above
Our lives are in His hands, He knows our needs
All our souls have been filled with His love

We come to spread the love of God around
We come to worship Him again
Our souls with love and peace and joy abound
Hallelujah, Amen.

* CALL TO WORSHIP 802, with sung response

Psalm 37:1-9

* OPENING HYMN 376

When We Walk with the Lord

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

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May 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.

Donn Engebretson, Reader

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

Beloved, Let Us Love One Another

Van Denman Thompson

Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

Ann Boyd, Soprano

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God;
and ev'ryone that loveth is begotten of God and knoweth God.

Herein is love, not that we loved God,
but that God loved us and sent His son to atone for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us we ought to love one another.

If we love one another God abideth in us,
and his love is made perfect in us.

God is love, and whoso abideth in love abideth in God,
and God abideth in them.

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Reckless Love

Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, Ran Jackson

2017 Cory Asbury Publishing (Admin. by Bethel Music Publishing)

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Watershed Worship Publishing (Admin. by Watershed Music Group [Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing])

Bethel Music Publishing

Led by Anders Johnson, Robert Johnson,

Jeanette Mottl, Brian Ward, Erik Ward, and Ryan Wendt

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

*This morning is KICY 100% Sunday. Gifts to KICY may be given online
(via Special Gifts) or marked and put in the offering plates.*

All single dollar bills in this morning's offering plates will also go to KICY.

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision

Dale Wood

Brian Ward, Organ

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 583

Help Us Accept Each Other

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Holy Manna (God, Creator of Your People) (585)

Joel Raney

** 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.*

Psalm 37:1-9

RESPONSE

We hope in you, O Lord, we trust your Word! We
o - pen our hearts to your good news!

ALL ¹Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
²for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
³Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
⁴Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

RESPONSE

ALL ⁵Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
⁶He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
⁷Be still before the LORD,
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
⁸Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

RESPONSE

376

When We Walk with the Lord

1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
 2 Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, but his
 3 Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our
 4 But we never can prove the delights of his love un - til
 5 Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll

glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, Christ a -
 smile quick - ly drives it a - way; not a doubt nor a fear, not a
 toil Christ does rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he

bides with us still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 sigh nor a tear, can a - bide while we trust and o - bey.
 frown nor a cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey.
 joy he be - stows are for those who will trust and o - bey.
 sends we will go— nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

Refrain

Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er way to be

hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

WORDS: James H. Sammis, 1846-1919, alt.
 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1850-1919

6.6.9.D) with Refrain
 TRUST AND OBEY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

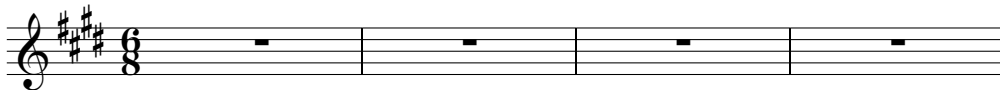
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Traditional

Reckless Love

Cory Asbury

Allegro (♩ = 120)



Be - fore I spoke a word, You were sing - ing o - ver me.



You have been so, so good to me.



Be - fore I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me.



You have been so, so kind to me. Oh, the




o - ver - whelm - ing, ne - ver - end - ing, reck - less love of God. Oh, it chas - es me down,




fights 'till I'm found, leaves the nine - ty - nine. I could - n't earn it, I don't de - serve it; still You

31  give Your-self a-way. Oh, the o-ver-whelm-ing, ne-ver-end-ing, reck-less love of God.

36  *1.* When I was Your foe, still your love

42  fought for me. You have been so, so good to me.

47  When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me. You have been

53  *2.* so, so kind to me.

58  There's no shadow You won't light up, mountain You won't climb up, com-in' af-ter me

63  There's no wall You won't kick down, lie You won't tear down, com-in' af-ter me.

67 

There's no sha-dow You won't light up, mount-ain You won't climb up, com-in' af-ter me.

71 

There's no wall You won't kick down, lie You won't tear down, com-in' af-ter me. Oh, the

75 

o - ver - whelm - ing, ne - ver - end - ing, reck - less love of God. Oh, it

79 

chas - es me down, fights 'till I'm found, leaves the nine - ty nine. I could-n't earn

83 

it, I don't de - serve it; still You give Your - self a - way. Oh, the

87 

o - ver - whelm - ing, ne - ver - end - ing, reck - less love of God.

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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 accompaniment 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 double bar line. The lower staff also concludes with a double bar line.

Help Us Accept Each Other

583

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **our neighborhood**, specifically the east side of the 5200 block of N Kimball and the north side of the 3300 block of W Foster
- **Larry Knipp**, anticipating knee-replacement surgery on March 4
- **Roderick Smith**, dealing with the pain of a torn muscle in his hip as he recovers from knee surgery
- **family and friends of LeRoy Johnson**, who passed away on February 8
- **Elizabeth Petersen**, moved to a rehab facility for further recuperation
- **Bruce Strom**, recuperating after eye surgery on February 13
- **Marcia Knudson**, former member here, undergoing chemo and radiation for lung cancer
- **Sandy Edstrom**, healing after breaking her foot
- **Brandon Baglayan**, Marti Hindaileh's godson, undergoing chemotherapy
- **western North Carolina**, still recovering from severe flooding caused by Hurricane Helene
- **residents of Los Angeles**, California, now experiencing mudslides on the heels of wildfire devastation



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.

Special Coffee Hour Birthday Celebration Today after worship, all are invited to join us in the parlors for a special coffee hour to celebrate those in our church who have turned 80 or more in the last year.

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

Today, we are participating in KICY's 100% Sunday. Once a year, KICY, the Evangelical Covenant Church's radio station, based in Nome, Alaska, asks for nationwide donations of \$1/person from 100% of those who worship on Sunday morning. When the offering plates come around, please drop in your dollar, and it will be counted as a donation to KICY. If you would rather donate online, please go to www.npcovenant.org/give, select "Special Gifts" from the drop-down menu, and type "KICY" in the optional memo field. Alternatively, you can click on the QR code at the right to donate through Realm. 100% Sunday has the potential to be a significant part of KICY's fundraising efforts. In addition, this allows everyone throughout the church body to invest in their work spiritually, emotionally, and financially. KICY spreads the Gospel to western Alaska and the Russian far east.



From Pastor Tomas Sanabria, Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Albany Park, as a response to the current political policies overwhelming all of the Latino congregations with immigrant members:

Since its founding 53 years ago, our church has been a Spanish-speaking church. But discernment has us now opening a new English-language Sunday service to be 1) a time of worship and service for any believer who does not fear being in the trenches with Latino worshipers, and 2) a secondary service to be supportive of the core Spanish church whose service follows at 11:30 am.

We invite you and friends to help us inaugurate our new English church services every Sunday in February (2, 9, 16, 23) from 9 am to 10:30 am. We will serve a free breakfast from 7:30 - 8:30 am.

Until we attract new worshippers through evangelism, all ministries are available: ushers, worship, music, dance, kitchen, etc. Whether you choose to serve a while or just visit now and then, please share this with friends and family. We are located at 4516 N. Kedzie Avenue.

The North Park Readers will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 25, at Tre Kronor (3258 W Foster Ave). We will be reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. This is a classic tale of the adventures of a mischievous boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi river town in the nineteenth century. If you have questions, please contact Helen Arkema at helen.arkema@gmail.com.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, March 2:**

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Congregational Meeting March 2: On Sunday, March 2, following worship, we will hold a brief congregational meeting in the sanctuary to vote on the Building with Faithfulness tithe options that were pared down through an initial vote at the January 26 Congregational Annual Meeting.

We invite you to join us for an Ash Wednesday worship service on March 5 at 7 pm in our sanctuary. During the service, we will share in the Lord's Supper and offer the imposition of ashes. Come, begin the journey to the cross.

As we enter the Lenten Season, and as we do the hard work of preparing our hearts—of emptying ourselves and confessing what it means to be broken and human, loved and redeemed—we invite you to a series of evening Lenten services. We will hold them in the south chapel each Sunday evening in Lent, beginning at 6 pm. They will be contemplative in nature, relatively brief, and will end in communion each evening. The dates of the services are March 9, 16, 23, and 30, and April 6.

You're invited to a Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch! On Sunday, March 16, after worship, all are invited to join us for corned beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread, and Green River soda. *RSVPs are absolutely necessary*, so [please let us know by Monday, March 10](#), if you're able to join us.

New Members Class to be Held on Saturday, April 5! Have you been wondering about membership at North Park Covenant Church and what it might mean? Do you have questions about the church and/or the Covenant denomination? Would you like to learn more, without the obligation to join the church? We'd love to have you join us in our next New Members Class! Please let Pastor Libby or Pastor Jeff know of your interest, and we will add your name to the list and be in touch!

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, February 24

- 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, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

- 10 am Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
- 6 pm Gather Dinner (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)
Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7 pm Knit or Not (Parlors)
Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, February 27

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

Friday, February 28

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (Edstrom Home)
- 4:15 pm Reed Group Piano Lesson (Sanctuary)

Saturday, March 1

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

Sunday, March 2 - Transfiguration 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)
- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
AA Meeting (Parlors)

**North Park Covenant
Church Staff**

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The Friendship Center

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Missionaries We Support

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

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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