NorthPark Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
11:00 a.m.



Heavens Torn & Transformed by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
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PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

What is broken cannot heal until it's known and loved by name. - Sara Bareilles; *Home*

WELCOME Rev. Amy Moore, Parish Associate

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

PRELUDE Veni, Emmanuel arr. Robert J. Powell

INTROIT Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether Friedell

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Kevin Hofeditz, Liturgist

One: When the nights are long,
All: we turn our eyes to the stars.
One: When discipleship is demanding,
All: we stand together, arm in arm.
One: When fear looms large,
All: we cry to God without holding back.
One: And when the dawn feels far away,
All: we light the candle of hope.
One: Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
All: Let us worship God.

✠**HYMN 821** My Life Flows On (stanzas 1, 2, 4) HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (together)

Holy God, so often we
bite our tongues,
hide our broken hearts,
and wear rose-colored glasses.
So often we
look for the bright side,
sweep pain under the rug,
and choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
Forgive us for filtering our honesty.
Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament.
Forgive us for not turning to you first.
Remind us that you are
a God who listens
and a God who restores.
With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

✠**PROMISE OF GRACE**

One: Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
All: There is nothing we can do or say
that will keep God's love at bay.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠**RESPONSE** O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

✠**SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN Katy Evans, Pastoral Resident

All children (youth and parents too!) are invited to the front of the Sanctuary.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

✠Please rise as you are able.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 80:1-4, 5-7; Isaiah 64, selected verses

One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Until the Dawn: Cry Out Rev. Nicole Bates, Pastor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY Simple Gifts arr. Myanna Harvey
Paul Lewis, Cello

✠RESPONSE In the Bleak Midwinter CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism is Lila Kathleen Dowdy, daughter of Emily and Tyler Dowdy.

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Marguerite McCarthy, Elder

We believe even on the longest nights –
when our steps are unclear and fear takes hold –
that the sun is still rising.
We believe in that sunrise like we believe in God's promised day.
Instead of giving in to the great unknown, move toward that light.
We summon our courage, carry each other, dance under the stars,
and believe the good news that says,
"God loves us so fiercely that God took on flesh to be with us."
This is the truth that sustains our journey.
In this, we believe. Amen.

✠**HYMN** Restore Us, God ST. LOUIS

Restore us, God; we cry to you – we long to see your face
Stir up your might and set things right; come touch us with your grace
God, tear open the heavens and make your presence known
We need you here to calm our fear; come make the earth your throne

In times of struggle here below it feels like endless night
The storm clouds grow, the thunder rolls; we long for dawning light
But 'til we see the daybreak, and love reigns once again
What can we do but cry to you and kindle hope within?

We cry out as an act of faith that you hear every prayer
We pray for peace, that hate would cease, for freedom everywhere
O God you are the potter and we the potter's clay
Mold us to be your hands and feet until your dawning day

✠**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Matthew 22:37-39

Go out into the world in peace.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind;
and love your neighbor as yourself.

✠**RESPONSE** Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing Sicilian Melody

POSTLUDE Saviour of the Nations, Come arr. Paul Manz

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TODAY AT NORTHPARK

WELCOME

Welcome to worship at NorthPark! Please record your attendance in the blue book found in your pew. Newcomers - by sharing your contact information, NorthPark will donate a bag of rice to a local food pantry in your honor. Hearing-assisted devices are available from an usher.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Resources to borrow are located outside the Sanctuary, and an activity table is in the Sanctuary. Room 30 livestreams worship and is available for children/parents who need to step out of worship. The nursery for infants - PK is in Room 38.

FAITH FORMATION

During Advent, youth and adults meet at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for discussion and activities centered on the theme "Until the Dawn." Together, we'll use story-sharing, art, and play to navigate darkness with hope. Children meet for Faith Formation in Room 36.

GUEST ORGANIST

Our guest organist today is Arlene Lindner Small. A native of Iowa, she earned both Bachelor and Master degrees in organ from the University of Oklahoma. Arlene has served on staff for two area churches: First Presbyterian (Arlington) and Woodhaven Presbyterian (Irving). She also worked at American Airlines Headquarters for 17 years! Welcome, Arlene!

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Thank you to Austin Nakamoto for directing our small (but lovely) choir today as the NorthPark Choir, with music staff Tinsley Silcox and Louis Walker, are singing in Vienna. Austria. Austin is our Tenor 1 Choral Scholar and a graduate student at SMU in Choral Conducting.

YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6–12)

Youth gather today in the Youth Lounge from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Flowers are given by Holly Daiker in memory of Don Daiker.

REVERSE FOOD TRUCK (RFT) AT LIGHT UP LAKE HIGHLANDS

The RFT is at Light Up Lake Highlands (in Lake Highlands Town Center) today from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Please stop by! For next Sunday's collection in the church parking lot, please consider donating tuna pouches and cans, Vienna sausages, pop-top soup and ravioli, sugar, oil, and individual snack crackers. Volunteers are needed to collect food at Kroger on second and fourth Saturdays. Sign up at bit.ly/3YRppPy.

TALK ABOUT IT

Reflecting on today's service, may these questions guide your thoughts and conversations:

1. Where do you pray for God to draw near?
2. Complete (and pray) this template: "God, please restore _____. Shine on _____. Save _____."

HOW TO GIVE

NorthPark relies on your generosity to support the mission and ministry of the church. Offering envelopes are found in the pew racks. Online gifts may be given by scanning the QR code. Checks may be mailed to NPPC; P.O. Box 515454; Dallas, TX 75251-5454.

News and Information

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2026

Advent and Christmas activities are listed at northparkpres.org/adventseries. Scan the QR code in the foyer to receive an electronic copy of the advent devotional. Paper copies, along with advent calendars, are also available in the foyer.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sign up by December 1 with the QR code at the Welcome Desk (or northparkpres.org/caroling) for lunch and caroling on December 6. Lunch will be served at no one. We'll board a bus at 12:30 p.m. to carol at two senior living communities and return by 3:00 p.m.

PCHAS CHRISTMAS KIDS

Bring joy to children served by Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Get details and sign up to provide gifts at northparkpres.org/christmaskids. Need help signing up? Contact Kathryn Qualia (kqualia@northparkpres.org). Drop off unwrapped gifts to the Parlor by December 6.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Order a poinsettia or ivy through December 10 in memory or in honor of someone. Forms are at the Welcome Desk or order online at northparkpres.org/poinsettias. The cost is $15 per plant.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY

There will be one worship service on December 13 at 11:00 a.m. with special music from the NorthPark choir and orchestra. Also, there will be one worship service at 11:00 a.m. on December 27 and January 3.

ADVENT BREAKFAST

All ages are invited to an Advent celebration and breakfast on December 20 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. More info coming soon!

COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Wassail and cookies will be served between the 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services. If you would like to donate a dozen or two homemade nut-free cookies, please bring them to the church kitchen any Sunday before Christmas Eve or during office hours Monday - Thursday.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Monday morning Bible Study will not meet December 7 and 28. Please join them any other week to study Mark's Gospel. The group gathers Mondays at 10:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

LEARN MORE

Find more information (calendar of events, staff contact information) at northparkpres.org.