

**Traditional Service****11:00 am****Prelude****Partita on "O Morning Star"**

(Composer: Michael Burkhardt)

**Welcome & Announcements****Call to Worship**

This is the day the Lord has made;  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it**

**Hymn #224****Rejoice, the Lord Is King****Responsive Reading****Colossians 1:15-23**

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

**For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,**

Whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

**He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

And he is the head of the body, the church;

**He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead,**  
 So that in everything he might have the supremacy.

**For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,**  
 And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven,

**By making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

Once you were alienated from God and enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

**But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death**

In order to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

**All: If you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit.

*(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)*

*In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News:

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**Response****Glory be to the Father**

#961

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost  
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be  
 World without end. Amen, Amen.

**Postlude****From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

(Composer: Luther/Near)

**Passing the Peace****Hymn #859****Be Thou My Vision****Scripture Readings****Philippians 3:7-14**

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon****Centered on Christ****Musical Reflection****Established in Faith**

(Words by Pamela Martin, Music by Craig Courtney)

**Doxology****Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise Him, all creatures here below  
 Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Communion: Invitation to the Lord's Table****Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
 Creator of heaven and earth  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
 and was born of the virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended to heaven and is seated  
 at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer****Words of Institution****Communion Music****O Morning Star**

(Composer: Franklin)

**Hymn #327****When We Walk with the Lord****Benediction****Worship Participants**

Welcome & Sermon	Rev. Greg Buell
Contemporary Worship Leader	Luke Stoner
Praise Music	Village Church Worship Band
Director of Traditional Music	Dr. Yongmin Kim
Choral Music	Village Church Choir
Scripture Reader	Roger Smith (9:30)
Organist	Sharon Peterson (11:00)
Song Leader	Natalie Mustea

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## Contemporary Service

9:30 am

Welcome and Call to Worship

Praise and Prayer

Great Things

Firm Foundation (He Won't)

Prayer of Confession

His Glory and My Good

Passing the Peace

### Announcements

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and online giving at <https://villagechurchnorthbrook.org/give/>. Those attending live worship can leave their donations in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.)

### Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:7-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Centered on Christ

Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Closing Song

Christ Be Magnified

Blessing

## Questions for Discussion

Read: Philippians 3:7-14 (NRSV)

### Going Deeper:

1. Look at the 3:5-6. What are the "gains" that Paul had in his own life. Why does Paul consider them "loss because of Christ." (v.8-9a)
2. Where does true righteousness come from? (v.9) Why do people try to earn God's favor through acts of righteousness? Are acts of righteousness a bad thing?
3. What is Paul's greatest passion in life? (v.10-11)
4. What does Paul compare a life in Christ to in verses 11-14? What is his goal and prize?

### Application for Life:

1. What gets in the way of your passion for making Christ your greatest passion and highest priority in life?
2. What things in life can threaten a person from persevering in the faith?
3. What would it mean for you to have the power of the resurrection at work in your own life?



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**Worship**  
**January 4, 2026**

## Program Staff

Rev. Dr. Spencer Lundgaard, Senior Pastor  
Greg Buell, Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Caring Ministries  
Ed Burton, Minister of Family Ministries  
Luke Stoner, Minister of Worship and Production  
Dr. Yongmin Kim, Director of Traditional Music



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