



NORTH PARK COVENANT CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
+ THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Lead Me to Calvary
arr. Dan Forrest
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come today as those who have been called to follow Jesus.

Lord, as we worship, give us courage to follow you.

We come today as those challenged to return blessing for evil.

Lord, as we worship, give us courage to follow you.

We come today as those invited to take up a cross.

Lord, as we worship, give us courage to follow you.

Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me?

Led by Dominic German, Anders Johnson, Carol Olfelt, and Brian Ward

* INVOCATION AND THE 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHORAL ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing
Martin Shaw
Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

Paul Wargaski, Reader
Jeremiah 15:15-21

New Testament Reading

Romans 12:9-21

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Libby Piotrowski

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Take My Life

Scott Underwood

1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Led by Dominic German, Anders Johnson, Carol Olfelt, and Brian Ward

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Sharing in the Elements

Communion Music

Let Us Break Bread Together

Robert J. Powell

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

Gisela Münch

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 [here](#).

Offertory

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Charles H. Gabriel

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 467

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

* SUNG BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

O How I Love Jesus

arr. William Ringham

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

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.

Take My Life

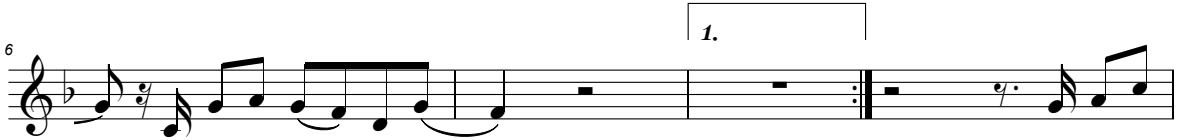
Scott Underwood



Ho - li - ness, ho - li - ness is what I long for.
Faith - ful - ness, faith - ful - ness is what I long for.
Right - eous - ness, right - eous - ness is what I long for.
Brok - en - ness, brok - en - ness is what I long for.



Ho - li - ness is what I need. Ho - li - ness, ho - li - ness
Faith - ful - ness is what I need. Faith - ful - ness, faith - ful - ness
Right - eous - ness is what I need. Right - eous - ness, righteous - ness
Brok - en - ness is what I need. Brok - en - ness, brok - en - ness



is what You want from me. So take my
is what You want from me.
is what You want from me.
is what You want from me.



heart and form it and take my mind and trans - form it. and take my



will and con - form it to Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

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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 4/4 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 features similar rhythmic patterns and harmonic support.

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

The third system of music concludes the piece. It includes a double bar line at the end of the melody and accompaniment.

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

1 Ask ye what great thing I know that de - lights and
 2 Who de - feats my fier - est foes? Who con - soles my
 3 Who is life in life to me? Who the death of
 4 This is that great thing I know, this de - lights and

stirs me so, what the high re - ward I win, whose the
 sad - dest woes? Who re - lives my faint - ing heart, heal - ing
 death will be? Who will place me on his right with the
 stirs me so: faith in him who died to save, him who

name I glo - ry in? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.
 all its hid - den smart? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.
 count - less hosts of light? Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.
 tri - umphed o'er the grave— Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

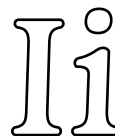
We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **Andrew Clauson and family**, mourning the passing of his father, Herb, on August 26
- **Jim Hosek**, hospitalized with a high fever, a positive COVID test, and some possible abscesses in his liver
- Barbara Nordlund's father, **Dwight Samuelson**, now on comfort care
- Fran Fostey's sister, **Priscilla Richards**, with whom Fran now lives, is now cancer-free
- **students, teachers, and administrators**, as they return to school
- **all those affected by the tropical storm, flooding, and earthquake** in southern California
- **all those affected by the wildfires** on Maui
- **Peter Kim**, missionary in Taiwan, applying for a visa on September 6 so he can return to their previous mission area to pack up their apartment and say farewell to colleagues and friends
- **Paul and Sheryl Noren**, missionaries in Congo, as Sheryl recuperates following knee surgery and Paul manages his various responsibilities
- **Craig Wickstrom**, missionary in Congo, planning for his September and November trips to Congo

Praying for Our Neighborhood in 2023

Join us this week, as we pray for those in our community whose last names begin with...



The September issue of *The Narthex*, our monthly newsletter, was emailed out this past Thursday, and there are a few paper copies available here at church, if you'd like to pick one up. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please reach out to Ann-Marie in the church office, and she will happily add you to the list.

The church office will be closed tomorrow, September 4, in observance of Labor Day.

Pastor Libby is looking for one more volunteer to help with elementary Sunday School this year!

When: 9:15-10:15 Sunday mornings

Where: In the junior chapel, just off of the parlors

What: Help lead activities/discussions each week with a small group of kids ages preschool to 6th grade (curriculum and materials provided). Actual small group time is only about 20 minutes each week. Build amazing relationships with some very cool kids!

Why: The kids in our church are not just the future church, they are a part of the church right now! They are learning and growing in their faith just like us. They have insights and wisdom that bring joy and challenge. It is a privilege to get to hang out with them! Come and find out for yourself!

Please see Pastor Libby to volunteer and/or for more details!

The Christian Formation Board is looking to hire someone (18 or older) for Sunday morning childcare each week. The position is paid and could be shared with one other person. Please [see the job description](#), and contact Pastor Libby if you're interested.



Join us on Sunday, September 10, for Fall Celebration Sunday! Starting at 10:30 am, we'll enjoy an outdoor worship service (weather permitting), followed by a block party and ministry fair! Enjoy lunch, a water slide bounce house, fresh root beer (straight from the keg!), and maybe even some live music! All are welcome, so invite your neighbors and friends!

As part of this year's Fall Celebration, we will enjoy a Ministry Fair. This is an opportunity for members and friends to learn about what the individual boards, committees, and other groups here at NPCC do, as well as how you might get involved. Come check it out!

Attention, young readers! Summer is coming to an end. Have you been keeping track of your reading? The time has come to turn in your Summer Reading Challenge sheets. We will begin collecting your reading logs at the Fall Celebration Sunday on September 10. The kids turning in their sheets that day will receive a bookmark and a special treat. If you did not get a sheet or have lost your sheet, more are available in the church library on the small table near the door. If you are not able to come on September 10, your sheets can be turned in to the church office or given to Pastor Libby.

Would you be willing to help with various building and clean-up projects in and around the church this year? The Trustees sponsor workdays a couple times a year to accomplish clean-up projects, minor building repairs, outside landscaping and painting projects (weather permitting), and more! The time requirement is minimal—even if you can only spare an hour or two that day, any help is appreciated! You will not only help beautify our church property, but you may get to know others in the church in a whole new way! Our next scheduled workday is Saturday, September 16, from 9 am to 3 pm (approx.). Would you like to join us? If so, [please sign up here](#).



Pets and people of all kinds are invited to come to the south garden at 10 am on Saturday, September 16, for our fifth annual Pet Blessing. We'll have coffee for humans and biscuits for dogs. Please be sure your pets are leashed or otherwise contained.



We'd love to have you join us to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Kirsten Anderson and Micah Lupa. An open house will be held at the home of Alyssa Anderson and Dave Holmes (5327 N. Christiana) on Saturday, September 16, from 11 am to 2 pm. Please RSVP to Alyssa at alyssas.anderson@yahoo.com.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 17! That's when we will start a new year of Sunday School for children in preschool through sixth grade (junior chapel, 9:15 am), Adult Formation (parlors, 9:15 am), and Confirmation (staff conference room, 9 am). We'll bless all of our students' backpacks on September 17, so be sure to bring your backpack to worship!

Come pray with us! As we continue our celebration of our 125th anniversary, we realize just how much prayer has played an integral and exciting part in our life together and all the lives that have preceded us. And, as the summer gently morphs into fall, we, as a congregation adhere to a more structured schedule again. The schedule includes opening a delightful and worthy package wrapped in the privilege of extending ourselves into a deeper faith as we joyfully plunge into our anniversary campaign. Its name says it all: Building with Faithfulness! That is one thing we will be praying for at our Virtual Prayer Vigil on Saturday, September 23, from 7 am to 7 pm. Please use [this sign-up sheet](#) for half an hour or more. The materials you may use, if you choose, will be forwarded to you if you sign up.



Have you ever wanted to learn more about our organ? As we celebrate the faithfulness of God throughout the last 125 years, we give thanks for the gift of a beautiful organ that brings musical depth and tradition to our worship! On Sunday, September 24, join us for Musical Machinery & Munchies, an organ tour of sorts with the added bonus of pizza! This event is especially good for kids, but adults are welcome too! We will begin at 12:30 pm and be done by about 1:30 pm. The cost is \$5/person to cover food expenses, payable online or via check or cash. [Please RSVP here.](#) Reservations will be accepted until Friday, September 22, at noon.



Food, Fun, and Fellowship: Women of NPCC, of any age, please come to a casual brunch on Saturday, September 30, at 9:30 am. We women haven't been together to celebrate ourselves in a long time. During this time of celebrating our 125th anniversary, we realize that the outstanding efforts of our women have been an integral component in bringing us to where we are today! So, paying tribute as we look back and feeling fortified as we move forward, it is exciting to think about how God might use all our marvelous gifts and skills in the future God has planned for our church. Check out an article in the September issue of *The Narthex* and then [sign up for a time of food, fun, and fellowship.](#)

Join Us at Feed My Starving Children: On Wednesday, October 4, we as a church will pack meals at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Libertyville (742 East Park Ave., Libertyville) from 7-8:45 pm. Everyone is welcome! Those who would like to participate can meet for dinner at 5:30 at the Culver's down the road from FMSC (803 E. Park Ave.) and then go pack meals. You can [use this link](#) to sign up (if prompted, use code EW3WKG). *Please note: there will be no Gather dinner or middle-school youth group that night!*



There are just a few weeks left to donate items to the Rummage Sale! We're collecting donations for the North Park Covenant Church Rummage Sale! Here's your chance to clean out the stuff that has been accumulating in your home, donate sellable items and/or your time and energy, put your organization skills to good use, and/or have an enjoyable time working with others in the church on a project!

And for the bakers in the group... we just might have a baked goods

area that could use your talent!

The Rummage Sale will take place on Saturday, October 7, from 9 am to 3 pm! Between now and then, we are collecting items and storing them at church. So, as you do your fall cleaning, keep us in mind! We will take almost anything we can resell! Questions? Contact Susan Dawson at dnsdawson@aol.com.

The texts for today's choral anthem and benediction are as follows:

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord has delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,

O sing praises to the honour of his name,

Make his praise to be glorious.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you,

the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace,

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

Amen.

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, September 4 - Labor Day - Office Closed

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

Tuesday, September 5

- 11:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, September 6

- 9 am NPCCP Teacher Meet 'n' Greets (South Garden)

Thursday, September 7

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7 pm NPCCP Orientation (Parlors)
- 8:15 pm Swanson Basketball (Gym)

Saturday, September 9

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10 am Shcherbyna Visitation (Sanctuary)
- 11 am Shcherbyna Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, September 10

- 10:30 am Outdoor Worship (South Garden)
- 11:45 am Fall Celebration Sunday Block Party and Ministry Fair
(South Garden, Christiana Sidewalk)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

North Park Covenant

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Missionaries We Support

John and Letha Kerl,
Field Representatives 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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