



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

AUGUST 31, 2025
+ THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

AUGUST 31, 2025
+ THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

PRELUDE

Round the Lord in Glory Seated
arr. Robert J. Powell
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 112

Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;

they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

The righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid.

They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;

their righteousness endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

* OPENING HYMN 303

Praise the Savior, You Who Know Him!

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

adapted from Rev. Christopher Ney

Hospitable God, you invite us to a banquet where the last may be first, and the humble and the mighty trade places. Let us share your abundance with no fear of scarcity; let us greet strangers as angels you have sent! Send your Spirit now so that we may find a place at your table and welcome others with radical hospitality. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, the one whose table is long enough for everyone, and who taught us all to pray saying...

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Christine Olfelt, Reader

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 25:6-7

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

* Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1, 7-14

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

Cornerstone

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin,

Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury

2011 Hillsong MP Songs (Admin. by Hillsong Music Publishing USA)

Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Hillsong Music Publishing USA)

Hillsong Music Publishing UK (Admin. by Hillsong Music Publishing USA)

Anders Johnson, Sam Parnin, Brian Ward,

Maria Ward, and Ryan Wendt

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

Christ alone, Cornerstone.

Weak made strong in Saviour's Love.

Through the storm He is Lord; Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest in His unchanging grace.

In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

He Will Hold Me Fast

Ada Ruth Habershon, Matthew Merker

2013 Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

Matthew Merker Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee (487)

arr. Roy M. Darley

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 71

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Sing between verses 3 and 4:

But we make His love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify His strictness with a zeal He will not own.

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God

J.S. Bach

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

Praise the Savior, You Who Know Him! 303



1 Praise the Sav - ior, you who know him! Who can tell how much we owe him?
2 Je - sus is the name that charms us, he for con - flict fits and arms us;
3 Trust in him, you saints, for - ev - er, he is faith - ful, chang - ing nev - er;
4 Keep us, Lord, on you re - ly - ing, wheth - er liv - ing, wheth - er dy - ing;



Glad - ly let us ren - der to him all we are and have.
noth - ing moves and noth - ing harms us while we trust in him.
nei - ther force nor guile can sev - er those he loves from him.
let no bit - ter - ness or sigh - ing mar our trust and praise.



WORDS: Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855, alt., st. 4, Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1931-, © 1990 Hope Publishing Company
MUSIC: German melody

8.8.8.5.
ACCLAIM

He Will Hold Me Fast

Ada Ruth Havershon

Matthew Merker

A A[♯] D9 A A[♯] D9

5 A A[♯] D E A

When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast
Those He saves are His de - light Christ will hold me fast
For my life He bled and died Christ will hold me fast

9 A A[♯] D E A

When the temp - ter would pre - vail He will hold me fast
Pre - cious in His ho - ly sight He will hold me fast
Jus - tice has been sat - is - fied He will hold me fast

13 F[♯]m7 E[♯] A D C[♯]m7 F[♯]m7

I could ne-ver keep my hold through life's fear - ful path
He'll not let my soul be lost His pro - mis - es shall last
Raised with Him to end - less life He will hold me fast

17 F[♯]m7 E[♯] A[♯] D E A

For my love is of - ten cold He must hold me fast
Bought by Him at such a cost He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last

21 D E F[♯]m7 F[♯]m7 E[♯] A

He will hold me fast He will hold me fast

25 A Bm7 A[♯] D D E A A[♯]

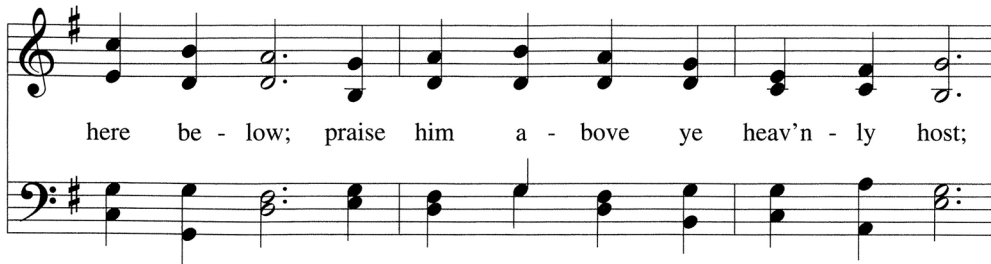
For my Sa-viour loves me so He will hold me fast.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



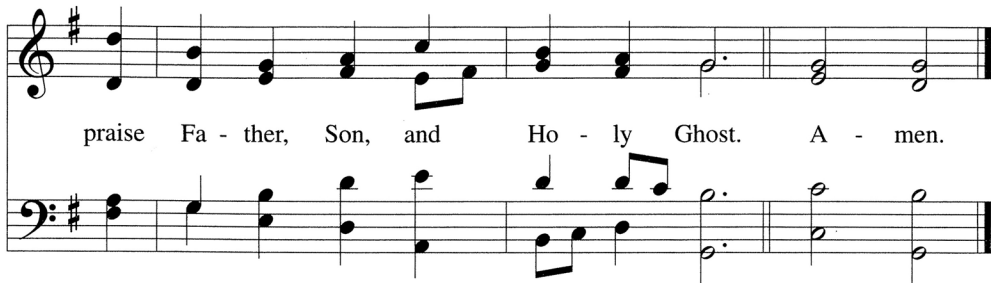
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass line features chords and single notes.



here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host;

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The upper staff features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, and the lower staff includes chords and single notes, maintaining the harmonic structure.



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, and the lower staff also concludes with a double bar line. The melody and bass line both end on a final chord.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

71

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;
 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4 If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his Word,

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
 there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Fredrick W. Faber, 1814-1863
 MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1858-1913

8.7.8.7.
 WELLESLEY

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **our neighborhood**, specifically the west side of the 5400 block of N. Bernard; *"We pray that God would unveil within our neighbors and ourselves the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength floods their and our innermost beings with his divine might and explosive power."* (Ephesians 3:16)
- Valerie Sanchez Lucco's son **Jeff Lucco, his fellow coaches, and 25 Taft High School boys' varsity soccer players**, as they travel by bus to Detroit September 5-7 for a weekend of soccer games
- Janette Smith's mother, **Ruth**, now on hospice care in the home of Janette's sister Bev
- **Kevin Wendt**, Ryan Wendt's father, recuperating after a T-cell replacement procedure this past Tuesday, spending two weeks in Detroit in isolation under physicians' observation
- **Steve Brown**, who has been dealing with pancreatic cancer, and his wife, **Jan Huber**, who fell and will undergo shoulder surgery after she recovers from COVID
- **Martha Berg**, recovering from a small stroke
- **Huck Johnson**, recuperating after surgery to repair a torn ACL
- **Lynn Pearson**, moved this past week to Brandel Care Center for continued healing
- **Pete Pearson**, now home from the hospital
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still experiencing sciatic pain
- **Bruce Strom**, continuing to heal after a fall
- **Janet Olfelt**, Joel Olfelt's mother, now in a skilled nursing facility for further recovery after a fall
- **Zeynab, her two sons, and her daughter, Sophia**, continuing to deal with various difficulties and uncertainties related to immigration
- **Gunnel Brunsell**, in palliative care
- **Diane Haglund**, continuing to struggle with fatigue, which is affecting her ability to work
- **Anna and Peter Kim**, missionaries to Taiwan now on home assignment, have a lengthy prayer list, which you can [read here](#).

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church! If you're new here today, we invite you to [email the co-pastors](#) 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.

The fall issue of our new newsletter, *The Quarterly*, was emailed out this past Friday. If you did not receive it, please reach out to Ann-Marie in the office, and she can make sure you're on the list, or add you if you hadn't been on it before. If you would rather have a paper copy, Ann-Marie can print one of those for you, too.

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.

The church office will be closed this coming Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day.

It's time again for outdoor worship and a block party! Next Sunday, September 7, we will hold our 10:30 am worship service in the south garden (weather permitting), followed by a block party on Christiana, complete with volleyball, a bounce house, and cotton candy. We'll provide a taco bar and ask that members and friends bring a side or a dessert to contribute to the meal. In case of inclement weather, we'll move indoors to the sanctuary and parlors. Invite your neighbors and friends! All are welcome!

Wednesday-night programming resumes September 10! Join us (just about) every Wednesday night during the school year beginning at 6 pm for our mid-week community dinner, which we call Gather! There's no need to bring anything! Just come, grab a plate, pull up a chair, and share in some conversation from 6 to 7 pm in the church parlors on the lower level of the church. We will begin sending out an RSVP form this coming Wednesday and ask that you RSVP by the end of the Monday prior each week. We'll accept a donation of \$6/person or \$20/family if you have the resources. Come gather with us!

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, September 7:**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1:1-21

Luke 14:25-33

Sunday School for all ages begins on Sunday, September 14. If you have a child in preschool through 6th grade, we invite you to register them for our weekly Sunday School gathering that meets from 9:15 to 10:15 am. Registration can be completed on the church website or by [using this link](#).

A Different Type of Ministry Fair: On Sunday, September 14, following our 10:30 am worship service, we will hold a Ministry Fair—a way to share the ministry opportunities of this church body and welcome one another into service—complete with a raffle surprise! We invite you to come to the church parlors to learn more about how you might bring your gifts to the table and serve in ways in which you are best suited, to build God's Kingdom here on earth where good can flourish in every corner, for God's glory and for neighbors' good.

Let's go out to the movies! On Friday, September 19, we'll meet in the south garden at 7 pm for an all-church movie night! Bring a blanket or chair to sit on, and a neighbor or friend to share in the fun. The movie has not yet been decided on, but we promise it will be enjoyable for all ages. We expect to start the movie around 7:30 and be done by 9 or so. In the case of rain, we'll move indoors to the parlors.

The Friendship Center invites you to this year's End Hunger Games, a family-friendly fundraiser to support 70,000 neighbors facing hunger on Chicago's northwest side. Each \$40 ticket will include entry, food, two beers, and carnival-theme gameplay on Saturday, September 6. Buy your tickets today at friendshipcenterchicago.org/ehg!

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, September 1 - Labor Day - Office Closed

8 am Geezerball (Gym)

Tuesday, September 2

4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, September 3

7 pm Knit or Not (Location TBD)

Thursday, September 4

4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, September 5

9 am NPCCP Caterpillars Play & Info Session (Preschool Classroom)

10 am NPCCP Butterflies Play & Info Session (Preschool Classroom)

Saturday, September 6

8 am Geezerball (Gym)

10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, September 7

10:30 am Outdoor Worship (South Garden)

11:45 am Fall Kick-off Block Party! (Sidewalk along Christiana)

1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)

6 pm Youth Group Parent Meeting (Parlors)

7 pm AA Meeting (South Chapel)

High-school Youth Group Begins! (Attic Youth Room)

Permission to print and podcast/stream the music in this service partially obtained from CCLI with license #2875232.

Permission to print and podcast/stream the music in this service partially obtained from One License with license #A-730954.

Permission to reprint and stream hymns copyrighted by Covenant Publications obtained from the Evangelical Covenant Church.

All rights reserved.

North Park Covenant Church Staff

Jeff Hunter, Co-pastor Libby Piotrowski, Co-pastor
jhunter@npcovenant.org lp Piotrowski@npcovenant.org
ext. 525 ext. 515

*To reach both Jeff and Libby, please use
copastors@npcovenant.org or ext. 510.*

Jeanette Mottl, Pastor for Community Connection,
with a Focus on Youth and College Students
jmottl@npcovenant.org

Brian Ward, Music Ministry Coordinator/
Chancel Choir Director
bward@npcovenant.org

Sam Parnin, Organist
sparnin@npcovenant.org

Linnea Olfelt, Chancel Handbell Choir Director
lolfelt@npcovenant.org

Christian Schuetz, Custodian
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

Ann-Marie Olson, Church Administrator
aolson@npcovenant.org, ext. 500

North Park Church Cooperative Preschool

Becky Edwards,
Administrative Director

Lyndsey Wellner,
Head Teacher/Educational Director

Jennifer Glazier,
Assistant Teacher

(773) 463-0055, ext. 520
preschool@npcovenant.org
www.npcovenant.org/npccp

The Friendship Center

Nadia Jiménez,
Executive Director
2711 West Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625
(773) 907-6338

info@friendshipcenterchicago.org
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

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,
Regional Coordinators for 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.

5250 NORTH CHRISTIANA AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625
NPCC@NPCOVENANT.ORG • (773) 463-0055 • WWW.NPCOVENANT.ORG