



# **NORTH PARK**

## **COVENANT CHURCH**

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025  
+ THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Prelude on *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* (715)  
Ian Higginson  
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

Introduction of Emily Cody, Pastoral Intern



CHORAL INTROIT

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (52)  
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

from the lectionary texts of the day

You desire truth. You teach wisdom.

**You keep promises. You seek the lost.**

You forgive sinners. You pour out grace.

**To you, King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,  
to you be honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

\* OPENING HYMN 10

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONSECRATION OF LAY LEADERS

*As we begin this new ministry year, we rejoice in the many who have responded to the invitation of the Spirit to join in God's mission, and we consecrate them today. We invite everyone serving this year to stand, to speak words of commitment, and to receive support and blessing from the church.*

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

Song of Response

Ellen Kogstad, Reader

Psalm 51:1-10

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Keith Green

1984 For the Shepherd Music

Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,  
Robert Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Ryan Wendt

New Testament Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

\* Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-10

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

## CHORAL ANTHEM

All That's Good and Great and True

Eric H. Thiman

All that's good and great and true, all that is, or is to be,  
be it old or be it new, comes, O Father, comes from Thee. Alleluia.

Mercies dawn with ev'ry day, newer, brighter than before;  
and the sun's declining ray layeth others up in store. Alleluia.

Ev'ry blade and ev'ry tree, all in happy concert ring,  
and in wondrous harmony, join in praises to their King. Alleluia.

Fill us then with love divine, grant that we, though toiling here,  
may in spirit, being Thine, see and hear Thee ev'rywhere. Alleluia.

May we all with songs of praise, whilst on earth Thy name adore,  
till with angel choirs we raise songs of praise for evermore. Alleluia.

## MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, USING THE PRAYER TREE

*All are invited to write their prayers on the paper leaves provided and  
bring them forward to place on the prayer tree during the hymn of response.*

## \* HYMN OF RESPONSE 407

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

## 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 at [www.npcovenant.org/give](http://www.npcovenant.org/give).*

Offertory

Jesus Christ, Our Lord Redeemer

J.S. Bach

Brian Ward, Organ

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

## \* CLOSING SONG

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)

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carillon Toccata  
Douglas E. Wagner

*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out  
and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

*\* 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.*

# 10 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree;  
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish—but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.  
 MUSIC: Welsh melody, arr. John Roberts's *Caniadau* y Cyssegr, 1839

11.11.11.11.  
 ST. DENIO

A higher setting can be found at 711.

## 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*

# Create in Me a Clean Heart

Keith Green

Cre - ate in me a clean heart oh

5 God and re-new a right spi - rit with-in me

9 Cast me not a - way from Thy pre - sence, oh

13 Lord, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spi - rit from me.

17 Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal -

21 va - tion, and re-new a right spi - rit with-in me.

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## Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;  
 2 We are thine, do thou be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
 3 Thou has prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful tho' we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare.  
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
 thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free.  
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our be - ings fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us, when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us, when we pray.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still. A - men.

# Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all crea-tures

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

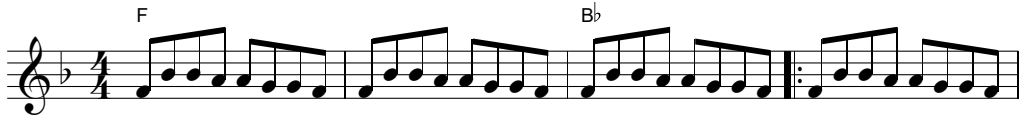
The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a more active line with eighth notes, and the bass staff uses chords and single notes to support the harmony.

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

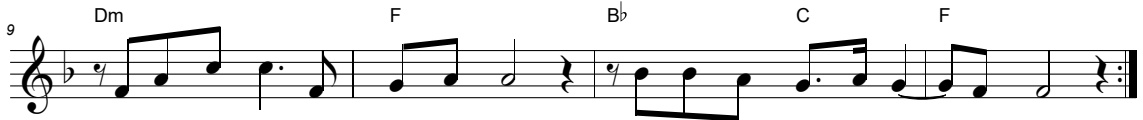
The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a solid harmonic foundation with chords and single notes.

# Cornerstone

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury



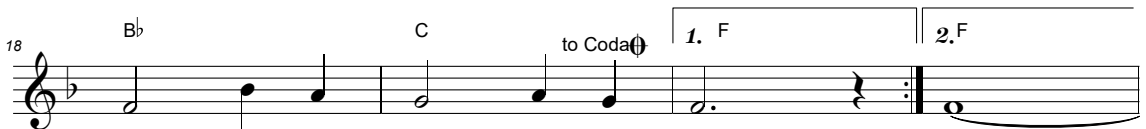
My hope is built on no - thing less than Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness.  
My hope is built on no - thing less than Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness.  
When dark - ness seems to hide His face, I rest in His un - chang - ing grace.



I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly trust in Je - sus' name.  
I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly trust in Je - sus' name.  
In e - very high and storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.



Christ a - lone, Cor - ner - stone. Weak made strong in Sa - viour's love. Through the



storm, He is Lord, Lord of all all.



He is Lord. Lord of all Christ a -



all. Lord of all.

# *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 5500 block of N. Kedzie and the south side of the 3200 block of W. Bryn Mawr; *"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)
- **our nation**, as we collectively lament continued instances of gun violence and mourn the loss of life
- **the family of Margot Burgh**, former member here who passed away on August 31
- **Rosemary Slaughter and family**, mourning the passing of her niece Bethann, from ovarian cancer
- **Gunnel Brunsell**, on hospice care
- **Jan Huber**, recuperating after shoulder surgery this past Monday
- **Valerie Sanchez Lucco and her son Jeff Lucco**, grateful for your prayers for Jeff, his fellow coaches, and the Taft high school varsity soccer team last weekend as they traveled to and from Detroit
- **Janette Smith and family**, mourning the passing of her mother, Ruth, on August 30
- **Zayd Vestal**, one of our former youth interns, as he lives, works, and adventures abroad
- **Kevin Wendt**, Ryan Wendt's father, recuperating in isolation after a T-cell procedure
- **Steve Brown**, dealing with pancreatic cancer
- **Lynn Pearson**, at Brandel Care Center for continued healing
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still experiencing sciatic pain
- **Janet Olfelt**, Joel Olfelt's mother, now in a skilled nursing facility for further recovery after a fall
- **Zeynab and her two sons**, awaiting word about their asylum case; and Zeynab's daughter, **Sophia**, who could potentially be released from the detention center if she can find a sponsor
- **Diane Haglund**, continuing to struggle with fatigue, which is affecting her ability to work
- **Anna and Peter Kim**, missionaries to Taiwan, have a lengthy prayer list, which can be [found here](#)

**Welcome to North Park Covenant Church!** If you're new here today, we invite you to email the co-pastors at [copastors@npcovenant.org](mailto:copastors@npcovenant.org) 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) during 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.

**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.

**Members and friends are invited** to be a part of a Saturday-morning trash brigade, working to clean up the block mentioned in today's neighborhood prayer. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at [rjonberber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjonberber@sbcglobal.net) for more details.

**Sunday School for all ages began** today! 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.

**Join us after worship for a Ministry Fair!** As a church body, we are committed to the Pietistic idea of living and serving for God's glory and for neighbors' good. But living and serving together that way doesn't happen by accident or magic. Instead, the invitation is for each of us to bring our gifts to the table and to serve in the ways in which we 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.

And so, we invite you to come down to the parlors to enjoy a special coffee hour and make your way through the ministry fair. Table vendors will have raffle tickets to give away to anyone who stops to talk about their advertised ministry. Put your name on the raffle ticket and put it in the big bucket. The more tickets you collect, the greater your chance to win one of FOUR great prizes that morning!

**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 viewing of *The Princess Bride*! Bring a blanket or chair to sit on, and a neighbor or friend to share in the fun. We expect to start the movie around 7:30 and be done by 9:15. In the case of rain, we'll move indoors to the parlors.

\* *Rated PG, 1987*

**Pray with Us!** It is soon time for our semiannual virtual prayer vigil, praying in the comfort of your own home for half an hour using provided prayer materials. This has been an exciting year in our church. As prayer is considered foundation-building in any church, all who have participated in the past are strong builders of that foundation on which we lean so heavily! Come join us again on Saturday, September 20. For our April Lenten vigil, every slot was filled! Let's make that happen again this fall by [signing up](#). You will receive your prayer materials by the end of the day on Friday, September 19. Let's come together boldly in prayer on September 20!

**It's Pet Blessing Time!** We invite you and your favorite furry (or scaly or feathered) friend to a Pet Blessing on Saturday, September 20, at 10 am. Come to the south garden for a time of fellowship and a brief service of blessing. Dog biscuits will be available for the hounds, and we'll have coffee for the humans. No need to RSVP, but please make sure your pet is appropriately leashed or otherwise contained.

**Come to our table at the Bryn Mawr Block Party!** Come say "hi" to us next Sunday, September 21, at our table at the Bryn Mawr Block Party! We'll be there from 10 am to 6 pm with NPCC merch and games!

**North Park Readers Resume!** Now that it is fall, the North Park Readers are meeting again. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 30, at 5:30 pm at Tre Kronor. We will be reading *Code Girls* by Liza Mundy. This is a book about the American women who secretly served as codebreakers during World War II. Please contact Helen Arkema at [helen.arkema@gmail.com](mailto:helen.arkema@gmail.com) with any questions.

**School Supplies Collection:** As the new school year begins, the Board of Community Concern is asking for your help in providing school supplies for Hibbard and Peterson elementary schools. If you are able to donate by this coming Sunday, we invite you to bring any of the following items to the box in the narthex marked for school supply donations. We will collect supplies September 14-28.

- #2 Pencils - Ticonderoga brand is preferred.
- Crayola crayons - 24 count
- Rectangular pencil erasers
- Crayola colored pencils - 12 count
- Expo regular or low-odor black dry erase markers
- Pencil sharpener with cover for shavings
- Paper towels
- Facial tissues
- Lysol or Clorox Disinfectant wipes
- Bottles of hand sanitizer
- Glue sticks
- Kids' backpacks

**Diapers Needed for Refugee Families:** The Board of Community Concern learned from Exodus World Service this week that they are in need of diapers for the refugee families they serve, specifically sizes 6 and 7. If you can contribute, the diapers can be placed in the narthex by the school supply collection bin.

**Spiritual Direction Offer:** Emily Wagner, seminary staff member and friend of the congregation, is working on finishing her spiritual direction certificate at North Park University, a requirement for which is to offer spiritual direction under her supervision. If you are interested in spiritual direction for this season of life, this would be a free way to engage in that practice while Emily completes her training. Reach out to Pastor Jeff if you have questions or interest, and he'll get you in contact with Emily.

**Lectionary texts for  
Sunday, September 21:**

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

**It's Time to Bike (or Run or Walk) for Congo!** Did you know that some people in DR Congo travel over 50 kilometers (31 miles) on a bicycle to a hospital, while sick or injured? And what's even harder to believe is that, when they arrive at the hospital, limited medicines, clean water, and medical training often prevent a person from getting better. Paul Carlson Partnership invites you to join the 2025 Biking for Congo Challenge as a fun way to bike (or run, walk, swim) to support healthcare in DR Congo. For more information or to register to participate, [use this link](#). Also, if you choose to participate, let the church office know so we can spread the word!

**Are you looking for a way to serve** at NPCC? We always welcome people who are willing to hang out with the littlest in our community or help serve refreshments after the worship service! [Click here to put your name down for a Sunday or two](#). *Please note: this is a new link.*

## **The Church Calendar This Week**

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*The calendar is available online at [www.npcovenant.org/calendar](http://www.npcovenant.org/calendar) and is updated as changes occur.*

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### *Monday, September 15*

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
11:30 am	NPCCP Board Meeting (Parlors)
12:30 am	Church Staff Suicide Prevention Workshop (Large Conference Room)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

### *Tuesday, September 16*

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

### *Wednesday, September 17*

10:30 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 (Coffee Lounge)
	Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

### *Thursday, September 18*

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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### *Friday, September 19*

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
7 pm	All-church Movie Night: <i>The Princess Bride</i> (South Garden)

### *Saturday, September 20*

7 am	Fall Virtual Prayer Vigil
8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
10 am	Pet Blessing (South Garden)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

*Sunday, September 21*

9 am	Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
9:15 am	Adult Formation (Parlors)
	Bible Journaling (Art Room)
	Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
12 pm	Youth Choir Rehearsal (Junior Chapel)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)

## **North Park Covenant Church Staff**

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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**

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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**

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

info@friendshipcenterchicago.org  
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

## **Missionaries We Support**

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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**

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*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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