



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
+ THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Great Joy, Quiet Trust
Stan Engle
Chancel Handbell Choir, Linnea Olfelt, Director

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter
Roderick Smith

Moment for Mission



CHORAL INTROIT

Sing to the Lord a Joyful Song
John B. Monsell
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

Sing to the Lord a joyful song, lift up your hearts, your voices raise;
to us his gracious gifts belong, to him our songs of love and praise.

For he is Lord of heav'n and earth, whom angels serve and saints adore,
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to whom be praise forevermore. Amen.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 113

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord!

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,
who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap. Praise the Lord!

* OPENING HYMN 207

Christ Is the Truth, the Way

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

Epistle Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol Schlensker, Reader

Amos 8:4-7

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

Lauda Anima (35)

Mark Andrews

MESSAGE

Letha Kerl

2 Corinthians 5:17-22

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Cornerstone

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

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

Offertory

Praise

Brandon Lake, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown,

Cody Carnes, Pat Barrett, Steven Furtick

2023 Brandon Lake Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing)

For Humans Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing)

Maverick City Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing)

Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Housefires Sounds (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Writer's Roof Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 590

We Are a New Creation

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata

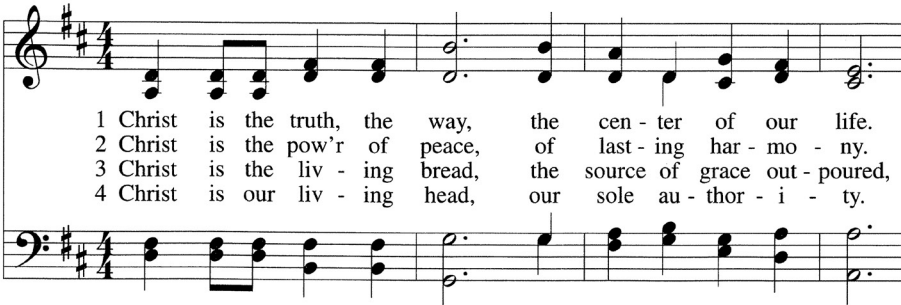
Percy E. Fletcher

Sam Parnin, Organ

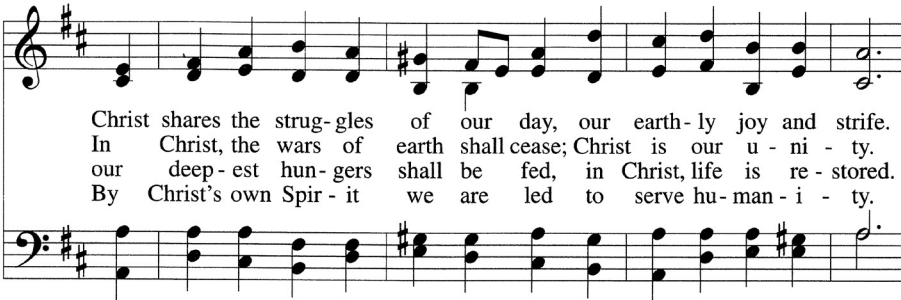
*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out
and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

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


Christ Is the Truth, the Way



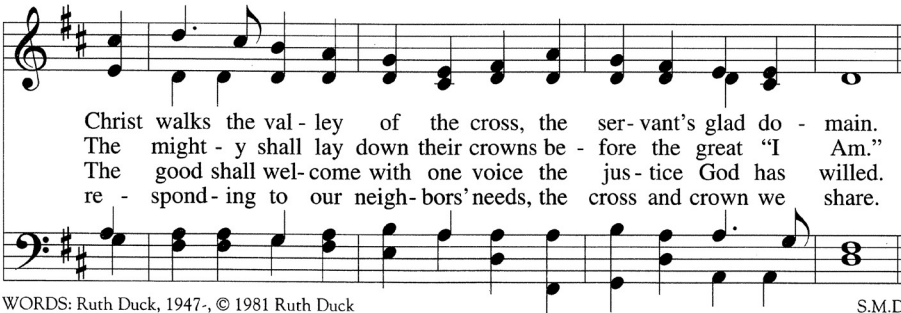
1 Christ is the truth, the way, the cen - ter of our life.
 2 Christ is the pow'r of peace, of last - ing har - mo - ny.
 3 Christ is the liv - ing bread, the source of grace out - poured,
 4 Christ is our liv - ing head, our sole au - thor - i - ty.



Christ shares the strug - gles of our day, our earth - ly joy and strife.
 In Christ, the wars of earth shall cease; Christ is our u - ni - ty.
 our deep - est hun - gers shall be fed, in Christ, life is re - stored.
 By Christ's own Spir - it we are led to serve hu - man - i - ty.



Re - deem - ing what is lost and heal - ing those in pain,
 The li - on shall lie down in peace be - side the lamb.
 Earth's hun - gry shall re - joice, for they shall all be filled.
 We fol - low where Christ leads when oth - ers' pain we bear;



Christ walks the val - ley of the cross, the ser - vant's glad do - main.
 The might - y shall lay down their crowns be - fore the great "I Am."
 The good shall wel - come with one voice the jus - tice God has willed.
 re - spond - ing to our neigh - bors' needs, the cross and crown we share.

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

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)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score is divided into systems, each with a measure number at the beginning. Chord symbols (F, Bb, C, Dm) are placed above the staff at various points. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score includes a repeat sign at measure 4, a key signature change to Bb at measure 13, and a double bar line with repeat signs at measure 18. The score ends with a Coda symbol at measure 27.

5
F Bb C
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.

9
Dm F Bb C F
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.

13
Bb C Bb C
Christ a - lone, Cor - ner - stone. Weak made strong in Sa - viour's love. Through the

18
Bb C to Coda 1. F 2. F
storm, He is Lord, Lord of all all.

22
Dm Bb C D.S. al Coda
He is Lord. Lord of all Christ a -

27
F Coda
all. Lord of all.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48


The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score is divided into three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line and ends with a double bar line.

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

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

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

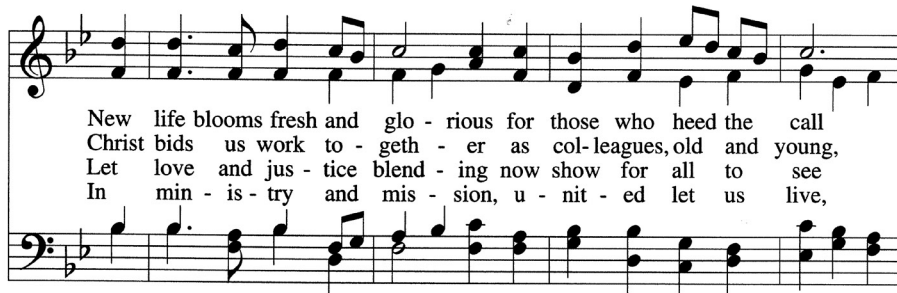
We Are a New Creation



1 We are a new cre - a - tion of Christ, the liv - ing Word.
 2 We are a new cre - a - tion of God for this new day.
 3 We are a new cre - a - tion for serv - ice here on earth.
 4 We are a new cre - a - tion by God's own gra - cious hand,



Our songs of ju - bi - la - tion shall ev' - ry - where be heard.
 As part - ners let us fol - low the life, the truth, the way.
 We live our faith in ac - tion to tell our Sav - ior's worth.
 old bur - dens cast be - hind us, a dar - ing fu - ture planned.



New life blooms fresh and glo - rious for those who heed the call
 Christ bids us work to - geth - er as col - leagues, old and young,
 Let love and jus - tice blend - ing now show for all to see
 In min - is - try and mis - sion, u - nit - ed let us live,



of Christ who reigns vic - to - rious o'er sin and death and all.
 as wom - en, men, and na - tions, God's own of ev' - ry tongue.
 God's grace is nev - er - end - ing. It reach - es you and me.
 in Christ a shin - ing vi - sion to God's wide world to give.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **our neighborhood**, specifically the east side of the 5500 block of N. Sawyer 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)
- **Bonnie Borgeson**, Cheryl Borgeson's sister, undergoing chemo treatments through mid-November
- **our nation**, as we collectively lament continued instances of gun violence and mourn the loss of life
- **the family of Margot Burgh**, former member of NPCC 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
- **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, struggling with health issues following a recent T-cell replacement 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, **Soofia**, 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

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church! If you're new here today, we invite you to email the co-pastors at 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 for more details.

Come to our table at the Bryn Mawr Block Party! Come say “hi” to us after church today, at our table at the Bryn Mawr Block Party! We’ll be there until 6 pm with NPCC merch and games for kids!

School Supplies Collection: As the new school year begins, the Board of Community Concern is asking for your help to provide school supplies for Hibbard and Peterson elementary schools. Please bring any of the following items to the box in the narthex marked for school supply donations, until September 28.

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

North Park Readers resume! Now that it’s 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 with any questions.

Community Book Discussion: You are invited to participate in a Covenant-wide discussion on the book *Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate* by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang. We will gather for study and conversation on two Sunday evenings, October 5 and 12, from 6:30 to 8 pm in the home of Nancy and Wally Ebner (5618 N. Drake Ave.). Feel free to join us whether or not you’ve read the book!

We invite you to join us at FMSC! It’s become something of a tradition around here to spend one night each fall making our way to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Libertyville to pack food for people in underserved countries. This year, we’ve reserved a time slot on Wednesday, October 15, starting at 7:15 pm. There will be no Gather that evening, and no youth group or music rehearsals. Instead, we invite any and all who are willing and able to join us at 6 pm for dinner at Culver’s (803 E. Park Ave., Libertyville), followed by the packing session at FMSC (742 E. Park Ave., Libertyville). To sign up, please [click here](#).

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, or walk, or swim) to support healthcare in DR Congo. For more information or to register, [use this link](#). Also, if you choose to participate, let the church office know so we can spread the word!

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

September is Hispanic Heritage Month: The Church Library is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month this September. Stop by to check out the books on display. There are books for all ages.

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 28:**

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

Refugee Support Always Welcomed: If you would like to contribute to refugee support to help refugees in our community, you may do so by going to www.npcovenant.org/give and selecting "Refugee Family/Immigrant Support Fund" from the drop-down menu.

Interested in a North Park Beginners Bicycle Riding Group? If you are interested in participating in a regular riding group, please email new NPCC friend Cecilea Mun at cmun@northpark.edu by Tuesday, September 30. The plan for now is to meet at North Park Covenant Church on Saturdays and ride the River Park path north to various locations along the coast of Lake Michigan. Possible end points are Lee Street Beach, Clark Street Beach, Block Museum of Art, Grosse Point Lighthouse, Bahá'í House of Worship, and Gilson Beach. We can have a short group prayer and time to rest and meditate before heading somewhere for a meal. Riders are welcome to drop off whenever they want, and end points can change, too. Suggestions or advice are also welcomed. Once you email Cecilea, she will set up a meeting for those who are interested to decide on a time, date, and destination for the first ride, as well as to make plans for organizing future rides.

Crescendo Seminar on Aging in Place & End-of-Life Care: On Tuesday, September 23, at 12 pm, you are invited to take part in an online seminar that will propose questions and provide information for people of all ages who are engaged with parents, grandparents, other relatives, and/or friends regarding their desire to age in place as well as have meaningful conversations related to end-of-life issues. The 90-minute session will include a presentation and videos. Alan Forsman, Crescendo's co-leader, will serve as facilitator. Sarah Bentley, a Crescendo Team member, will serve as presenter and guide to explore the content. To register, please [click here](#).

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The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, September 22

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
3:45 pm	Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, September 23

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

Wednesday, September 24

10 am	Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
3:45 pm	Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
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 25

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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Friday, September 26

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
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Saturday, September 27

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, September 28

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)
	High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)

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