



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
+ THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Choral Prelude on “St. Peter”
Gordon Young
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



CHORAL INTROIT

A Hymn of Glory
Hymn selection 263, verses 1 and 4
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP 858, with sung response

Psalm 146

* OPENING SONG

You Are
David Crowder, Ed Cash, Hank Bentley
Led by Jon Boyd, Jeff Hunter, Kristen Hunter,
Anders Johnson, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Nancy Ebner, Reader

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

He Is King of Kings
African-American Spiritual
ed. John W. Work

Refrain: He is King of Kings, he is Lord of Lords.
Jesus Christ, the first and last, no one works like him.

He built his throne up in the air (no one works like him),
and called his saints from ev'rywhere (no one works like him). *Refrain*

He pitched his tents on Canaan's ground (no one works like him),
and broke the Roman kingdom down (no one works like him). *Refrain*

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

* RESPONSIVE HYMN 717

When Life for Us Is Full of Comfort

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

Pastorale
Robert Lau

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 720

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Immortal, Invisible
Gerald Peterson

*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.*

RESPONSE



I will sing the glo-rious prais-es of my God through all my days.

I ¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

II ³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals,
in whom there is no help.

**⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

RESPONSE

III The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

ALL ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

RESPONSE

You Are

David Crowder, Ed Cash, and Hank Bentley

2014 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
All Essential Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
Bentley Street Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)



Nev-er mo - ving like a moun - tain nev-er end - ing
Ev - er wait - ing for the wea - ry; ev - er want - ing



like the sea; like a sun - rise bring - ing blue skies,
them to see there is ran - som, there's for - give - ness



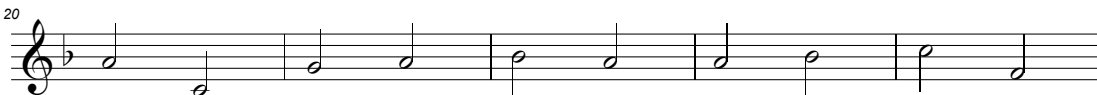
Your light is all a-round me. Though I'm prone to leave Your
Your hope is all a-round me.



side You chase me like the tide. You are



con - stant in my wan - der - ing. You are bright - er



than the dark in me. You are the love that



sets me free. You are faith - ful, You are faith - ful,

30 Last time to Coda

1.

You are

34

2.

Nev-er leav-ing or for-sak-ing. You are

39

hold-ing me when the waves are crash-ing. You are

43

pul-ling me like grav-i-ty in-to Your arms, in-to Your arms, in-

47

D.S. al Coda

to Your arms. You are

51

⌘ Coda

55

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

717 When Life for Us Is Full of Comfort

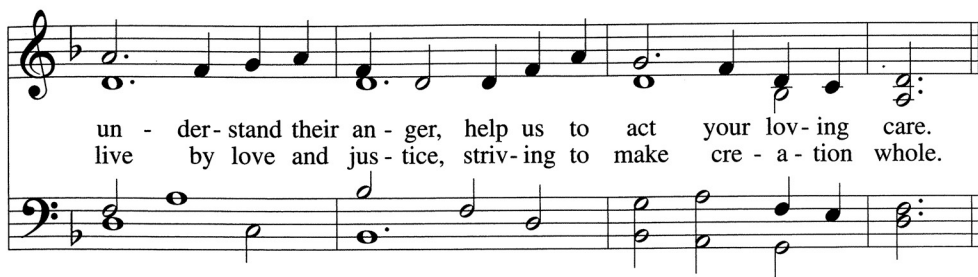
In unison

1 When life for us is full of com-fort, when wealth and
2 When strife and tur-moil rage a-round us, when right and

plen-ty o-ver-flow, Lord, make us tru-ly see our
right in con-flict stand, save us, O God, from eas-y

neigh-bors; their pain and need bring us to know. Fam-'lies that
an-swers that do not meet your truth's de-mand. Lord, make us

wan-der lost and home-less, youth filled with ha-tred and de-spair—teach us to
ask deep prob-ing ques-tions, pon-der our mo-tives, search our soul; teach us to



un - der-stand their an - ger, help us to act your lov - ing care.
live by love and jus - tice, striv - ing to make cre - a - tion whole.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



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.

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

720

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn; Christ
2 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace; re -
3 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain; stretch
4 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod, and,

rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

WORDS: Norman O. Forness, 1936-
MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

S.M.
FESTAL SONG

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. 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)
- **Lynn Pearson**, back in the hospital due to a blood clot in her leg
- **Bonnie Borgeson**, Cheryl Borgeson's sister, undergoing chemo treatments that will continue through mid-November
- **Rosemary Slaughter and family**, mourning the recent passing of her niece Bethann
- **Gunnel Brunsell**, on hospice care
- **Jan Huber**, recuperating well after shoulder surgery
- **Janette Smith and family**, mourning the passing of her mother, Ruth, on August 3
- **Zayd Vestal**, former youth ministry intern here, as her lives, works, and adventures overseas
- **Kevin Wendt**, Ryan Wendt's father, struggling with health issues following a recent T-cell replacement procedure
- **Steve Brown**, who has been dealing with pancreatic cancer
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still experiencing sciatic pain
- **Janet Olfelt**, Joel Olfelt's mother, in skilled nursing for further recovery after a fall
- **Zeynab and her two sons**, awaiting word about their asylum case; and for 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.

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.

Community Focus Group Opportunity: [The Kedzie Center](#) is looking for community members (from Albany Park, Irving Park, North Park, and Sauganash) who are willing to share their perspectives so they can make their own work even more community-responsive and informed. There are two ways to help them:

- 1) [Take the survey](#) (5-10 minutes to complete and responses can be anonymous). All survey participants will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 gift card to one of six local businesses!
- 2) [Join a focus group](#). The Kedzie Center will host focus groups on Mondays, September 29 and October 6, from 6-7 pm. All focus group participants will receive a \$25 gift card to the Aldi on Montrose.

Their goals through these actions are to capture a snapshot of community needs and to go deeper on the themes that emerge through the survey.

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 (3258 W. Foster Ave). 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.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, October 5:**

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Welcoming the Stranger - Together! This fall, all over our denomination, discussions are taking place over the book *Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion and Truth in the Immigration Debate*, by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang. North Park Church's participation will be in the form of conversation and prayer in the home of Nancy and Wally Ebner (5618 N. Drake Ave.) on October 5 and 12 from 6:30-8 pm. We'll discuss the themes of the book (U.S. history; legal, human, political, and biblical issues; and responses) which is quite long, so feel free to join us whether or not you've read it! There's a copy in the church library. You are welcome! Contact Nancy at 413-896-8874.

Will You 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 share the link to your fundraising page!

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. If you can contribute, the diapers can be placed in the narthex by the school supply collection bin.

Refugee Support Always Welcomed: If you would like to contribute to refugee support to help those 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.

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.

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.

New Members Class Planned for November 15: Have you been wondering about membership at North Park Covenant Church and what it might mean? Do you have questions about the church and/or the Covenant denomination? Would you like to learn more without an obligation to join the church? We'd love to have you join us at our next New Members Class, which will be offered on Saturday, November 15, from 9 am to 1 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be included! Please let Pastor Libby or Pastor Jeff know of your interest, and we'll add your name to the list and be in touch!

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.

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The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, September 29

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)
4 pm	Tutoring (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, September 30

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

Wednesday, October 1

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, October 2

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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Friday, October 3

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
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Saturday, October 4

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

Sunday, October 5

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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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

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Jennifer Glazier,
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preschool@npcovenant.org
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The Friendship Center

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2711 West Lawrence Avenue
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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.

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