



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

OCTOBER 26, 2025
+ REFORMATION SUNDAY +

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PRELUDE

Toccata for a Festival
Gerald Peterson
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter



CHORAL INTROIT

Kyrie Eleison
Audrey Snyder

Youth Choir, Brian Ward, Director

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46, led by Emily Cody

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
God speaks, and the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord!

**God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
God breaks the bow, shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

Be still, and know that the Lord is God!

**God is exalted among the nations;
God is exalted in the earth.**

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 464

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

* 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Alaina Dreissen

Adam and Kayla Dreissen, Parents

Sung Response 443

Jesus Loves Me

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Barbara Hunt, Reader

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:16-29

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19

* Gospel Reading

John 2:13-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN 524

Thy Word

Led by Kristen Hunter, Stephon Owens,
Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski

CHORAL ANTHEM

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Hymnal Selection 422, arr. Carl Shalk
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director
Stephon Owens, Trumpet
Carol Olfelt, Trumpet

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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Hymnal Selection 71, arr. James Pethel

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* BENEDICTION

For all that God can do within us,
for all that God can do without us,
thanks be to God!

For all in whom Christ lived before us,
for all in whom Christ lives beside us,
thanks be to God!

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,
for where the Spirit wants to send us,
thanks be to God!

The blessing of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
be with you and on your way together, now and forever.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
Hymnal Selection 576, arr. Jason W. Krug
Brian Ward, 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.*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

464

1 A might-y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2 Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los - ing,
 3 And tho' this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat-en to un - do us,
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;

our help-er he a - mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 were not the right one on our side, the one of God's own choos - ing.
 we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to tri - umph through us.
 the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe—his craft and, pow'r are
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he—Lord Sab - a - oth his
 The prince of dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for him—his rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin-dred go, this mor-tal life al - so—the bod - y they may

great, and, armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 dure, for lo, his doom is sure: one lit-tle word shall fell him.
 kill; God's truth a - bid-eth still: his king-dom is for-ev - er. A-men.

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.

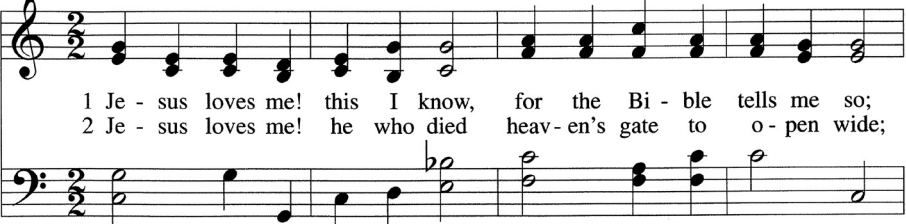
Traditional

443

Jesus Loves Me! This I Know

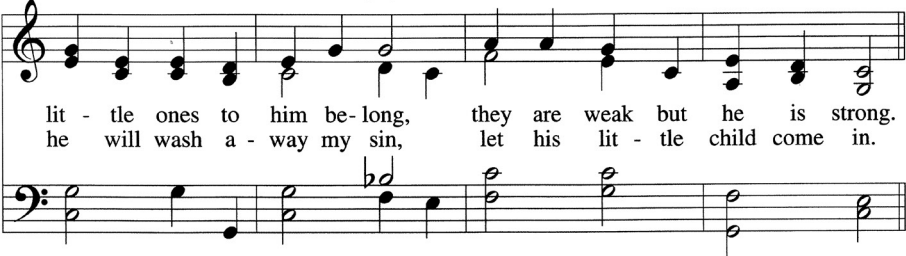
In unison

C G C G/D C7/E F F/C C



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gate to o - pen wide;

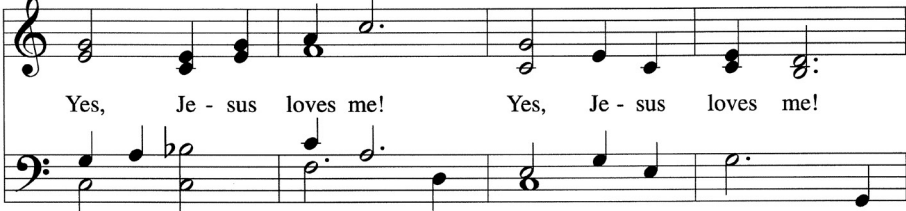
C G C Gm/F C7/E F C/G G7 C



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.

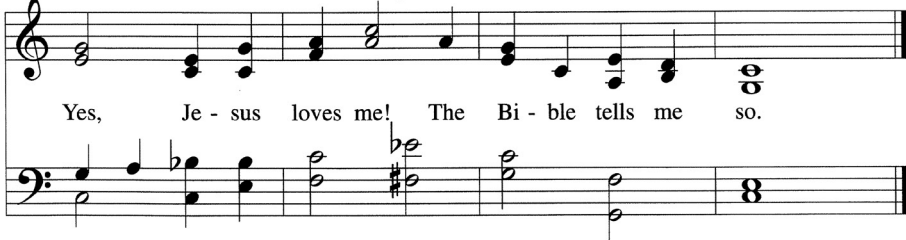
Refrain

C C7 F C C/G G



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

C C7 F F#dim7 C/G G7 C



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Thy Word

Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my

path.

1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way,
 2 I will not for-get your love for me and yet my

still you're there right be-side me. Noth-ing will I fear as
 heart for-ev-er is wan-der-ing. Je-sus be my guide and

long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.
 hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.

D.C. al Fine

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

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

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody in the treble staff consists 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 few dotted notes, and the bass staff includes some chords with repeat signs.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a double bar line and repeat signs. The bass staff also concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

The Church's One Foundation

1 The Church- 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 We see her long di - vid - ed, by her - e - sy and sect;
 4 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 yet she by God is guid - ed, one peo - ple, one e - lect;
 she waits the con - su - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more:
 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 her vig - il she is keep - ing her cry goes up, "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed;
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the dawn of song.
 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest!
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee. A - men.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

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.

For your prayers this week:

- **our neighborhood**, specifically Mary Gage Peterson Elementary School (5500 block of N. Christiana) and William G. Hibbard Elementary School (3200 block of W. Ainslie); *"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 immigrant brothers and sisters**, as ICE activity continues
- **family and friends of Gunnel Brunsell**, who passed away on Saturday, October 18
- **Eileen Thorpe**, experiencing aFib and changes to her medication
- **JP DeNeui**, grateful for NPCC, his new church home since the closing of Grace Covenant, and that God is faithful everywhere, allowing us to build and be built wherever we are
- **Sally Engebretson**, recuperating well after her second knee-replacement surgery October 15
- **Sandy Edstrom**, recuperating after Mohs surgery this past Monday
- **Melanie Jones**, for strength to live with chronic pain
- **Diane Haglund**, experiencing hip pain
- **Matt Johnson**, Pastor Libby's brother, recuperating after surgery to repair a severed tendon in his ankle
- **Lynn Pearson**, at Brandel Care Center for continuing care
- **Bonnie Borgeson**, Cheryl Borgeson's sister, undergoing chemo treatments through mid-November
- **Jan Huber**, recuperating well after successful shoulder surgery
- **Steve Brown**, who has been dealing with pancreatic cancer
- **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 remains in a detention center in California

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.

All Saints' Sunday is November 2. Our tradition here is to display photos of those who have gone before. If you have a picture of a loved one you would like to display that morning, please either bring it to the church office this coming week, or come a few minutes before the service next Sunday to set up your photo at the front of the sanctuary.

Christmas is coming! And that means it's time for our annual Christmas Greens fundraiser to support our youth ministries! We'll have Christmas greens for order between October 12 and November 9, [using this link](#). They'll be available for pick-up after the service in the alley parking lot on Sunday, November 23. Please reach out to Jeanette if you have any questions or problems ordering!

North Park Readers' Next Meeting: The next meeting for the North Park Readers will be on Tuesday, October 28, at 7 pm, at Karen Darelius' house. We will be reading *One Hundred Saturdays* by Michael Frank. This is the story of Stella Levi, a 99-year-old survivor of Auschwitz, who shares her life in conversations with writer Michael Frank over the course of six years. Please contact Helen Arkema at helen.arkema@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Night of the Walking Taco returns! Come to the corner of Christiana and Berwyn between 5 and 7:30 pm on Halloween night for free hot cocoa and walking tacos . . . if you dare! We can't wait to see all of the costume creativity we know our neighbors possess!

And if you're willing and able to help with set-up, serving, and/or clean-up, please reach out to Pastor Jeff. Thank you!

Support Our Biking for Congo Participants: The following church members have signed up to participate in Biking for Congo this month. To support them, you can visit their respective fundraising pages:

- [Wally Ebner](#)
- [Joline Paska](#)
- [Sue Vandervoort](#)

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, November 2:**

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

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!

Do you need offering envelopes for 2026? Each year, we order offering envelopes for those members and friends who wish to use them for their giving. If you received envelopes last year and wish to receive them again this year, you do not need to do anything. However, if you received them last year and *do not* wish to continue receiving them, or if you did not receive them last year and *do* want to receive them for next year, please reach out to Ann-Marie by Thursday, October 30, to let her know.

The Friendship Center seeks support for their special October Project Days. From October 29-31, they are closing the pantry to spend a few days deep cleaning, painting, reorganizing, and possibly building some IKEA furniture. Volunteer opportunities are available from: 10 am - 12 pm, 12-2 pm, and 2-4 pm each day, and this is a great chance for groups to volunteer together. Groups and individuals can contact Ali Cassity at alison@friendshipcenterchicago.org to register. Additionally, they seek in-kind items from their [Amazon wish list](#) or gently used or new, easy-to-clean toys and books for kids 6 years old and under, as well as [donations](#) to help fund paint and supplies.

Donations and Volunteers Needed! The [Hollywood-North Park Community Association](#) (HNPCA) is collecting new and used clothing (clean and in good condition), diapers (especially sizes 5 - 7), and hygiene products for more than 300 people living in the family shelter at 3034 W. Foster. They have been supporting shelter residents since October 2023, when the facility first opened, and it now houses both migrant and native-born families. They are calling for your support to help families prepare for the winter and provide some comfort to them during challenging times.

The HNPCA is accepting donations in person on Saturday, November 15, from 1 to 4 pm outside the Peterson Elementary School auditorium at Christiana and Catalpa. New items also can be purchased directly on our [Amazon Wish List](#) and they will be delivered straight to the shelter. To volunteer to collect and/or deliver clothing, please [sign up here](#).

Star Bazaar to Benefit Bethlehem Bible College: As store displays (and even our own announcements) have begun alerting us, Christmas is on its way! Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) is also aware of how soon Christmas will be upon us, and they're holding a bazaar offering authentic items for the season from the birthplace of our Savior. Take a look at the various gift options and consider supporting the workings of our partner, BBC. [Click here to order](#), and receive your order before the season begins.

New to the Church Library: A small selection of large-print books are now available on the library shelves. Authors represented include John Baillie, Jimmy Carter, Philip Keller, Brother Lawrence, Max Lucado, and Ann Weems. The books are shelved at the end of the Inspirational Books in Section 3. Would you like to be more informed about the situation in Palestine? The following books have been donated to the library recently: *The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian's Narrative of Lament and Hope* by Munther Isaac and *American Evangelicals and Modern Israel: A Plea for Tough Love* by Frederic M. Martin.

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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WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION?

On October 31, 1517, a 34-year-old German monk named Martin Luther nailed a document containing 95 theses, or propositions, to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral.

In those theses, Luther attacked the prevailing understanding of his age that the Christian Church had the power, through the sacraments, to ensure a person's salvation. Luther also strongly challenged a related concept—that we are saved, or made right with God, by virtue of the things we do. Rather, Luther said, being in right relationship with God, or our salvation, comes about as a gift of God. It is grace. We do not earn this grace by our works or the things we do. Rather, being made right is God's free gift, or grace, given to whomever God chooses. Those who know and experience that sense of grace will then seek to live as they believe God intends them to. Trying to live a faithful life is the result of experiencing God's grace, and feeling oneself in right relationship with God is not a necessary precondition to experiencing God's love and grace. Luther's understanding quickly gained wide support and initiated what we now know as the Protestant Reformation. Other church leaders in Switzerland (Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin), Scotland (John Knox), and England (Thomas Cranmer) picked up Luther's ideas, modified some of them, and started other movements to reform the church. We are the inheritors of this tradition.

Luther's conviction about being saved by God's grace came from a sudden insight as he wrestled with a passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans. For Luther and other Reformation leaders, scripture was the primary means through which we hear God's Word. They did not believe the Bible is the literal Word of God, but they did believe that as we read scripture and wrestle with it, collectively in worship as well as in individual and group study, we can hear God's Word to us and for us.

- adapted from online sources by Libby Piotrowski

INFANT BAPTISM

On the basis of interpretation of Scripture, some worshippers at North Park Covenant Church choose the sacrament of baptism for their infant children. This interpretation is based on the view that the sacraments, both baptism and the Lord's Supper, are means of grace whereby the mystery and drama of the Gospel are proclaimed. Specifically, in baptism, the proclamation is that a decision has been made by God from the foundation of the world that a way be provided for everyone to be included in the power field of the Gospel's message and community. Baptism symbolizes the initiation into the believing community wherein the infant will grow up and one day acknowledge conversion into the new life in Christ. The water is the visible sign of the invisible grace. It stands both for life and cleansing.

Some may ask how the infant can really understand what is happening in the act of baptism, and therefore, how can it really be effective? This is precisely the point. The grace proclaimed in the sacrament is prevenient, that is long before we were even here, or thought of, even while helpless like an infant, the Lord knew our need and has already done what is necessary for our spiritual life. Baptism points to God's decision on our behalf.

The part that the congregation plays in this service is virtually the same as that of presenting a child for dedication. There are responsive questions in which members of the congregation will be asked to participate at the appropriate moment.

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, October 27

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, October 28

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 29

10 am	Wednesday 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, October 30

5 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Halloween Hang (Parlors)
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Friday, October 31

10:30 am	NPCCP Caterpillars Halloween Party (Gym)
1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
2:15 pm	NPCCP Butterflies Halloween Party (Gym)
5 pm	Night of the Walking Taco (Corner of Berwyn & Christiana)

Saturday, November 1

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

Sunday, November 2 - All Saints' Sunday

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)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)
	High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

North Park Covenant Church Staff

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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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