



# **NORTH PARK**

## **COVENANT CHURCH**

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

+ THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY +

FEBRUARY 1, 2026  
+ THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY +

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound  
Hymnal Selection 341, arr. Dale Wood  
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



CHORAL INTROIT

Amen/This Is My Father's World  
arr. Kyle Pederson  
Minnehaha Academy Singers, Karen Lutgen, Director

In the morning when I rise,  
at the evening's last light,  
and all through the deep night, Amen.

Through joy and jubilation,  
through trial and tribulation,  
let all creation sing, "Amen."

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and 'round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass, I hear him pass—he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, oh let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Emily Cody

Awake! Rejoice! Our Light has come!

**This Light has gathered all people to God.**

We come to bask in the light and love of God's glory;  
**we come with flames dim and wicks low.**

Holy Spirit, come and inflame our lives once more,  
**that we may carry the Light of God into the dark places of our world**  
**and let it shine as a continual act of worship. Amen.**

\* OPENING HYMN 580

God Bless Your Church with Strength!

## \* PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## \* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Emily Cody

Jacob Cody

Jeanette Mottl

## READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

Joel Olfelt, Reader

Micah 6:1-8

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

\* Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jeff Hunter

## CHORAL ANTHEM

Down by the Riverside

African-American Spiritual, arr. Roosevelt Credit

I'm gonna lay down my burdens down by the riverside,  
and study war no more.

I'm gonna lay down my boxing gloves down by the riverside,  
and study war no more.

*Refrain:* I ain't gonna study war no more.

I'm gonna lay down my weary head down by the riverside,  
and study war no more. *Refrain*

I'm gonna put on my long white robe down by the riverside,  
and study war no more. *Refrain*

## MESSAGE

Emily Cody

\* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

The Kingdom Is Yours  
Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,  
Robert Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

*All who believe in Christ and desire to live a life directed by the Holy Spirit are invited to come forward to participate in this sacrament. Gluten-free elements are available.*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Communion Music

Alleluia

Ralph Manuel

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Hymnal Selection 78, arr. Chris Rice

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

Take My Life and Let It Be

Hymnal Selection 375, arr. Tom Fettke

Brian Ward, Piano

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 420

Teach Me Your Way, O Lord

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Variations on *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Hymnal Selection 422, arr. Edward Broughton

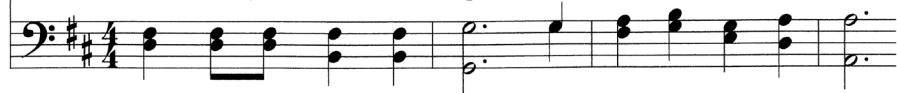
*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

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

## God Bless Your Church with Strength! 580



1 God bless your church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be,  
 2 God bless your church with life! May all our branch- es thrive  
 3 God bless your church with hope! De - spite cha - o - tic days,



build up your ser - vants as we work in com - mon min - is - try.  
 un - blem - ished, whole- some, bear - ing fruit, a - bun - dant - ly a - live.  
 may we in dark - ness shine to light a path - way through life's maze.



Urge us from fledg - ling faith to ven - ture and to soar through  
 From you, one ho - ly vine, in free - dom may we grow, sus -  
 May jus - tice be our aim and kind - ness ours to share, in



o - pen skies to sing the praise of Christ, whom we a - dore.  
 tain us in our mis - sion, Lord, your love and peace to show.  
 hum - ble - ness O may we walk, as - sured our God is there! A - men.



# The Kingdom Is Yours

Aaron Keyes, Brittney Spencer, Micah Massey, Terrell Wilson

10000 Fathers (Admin. by Integrity Music)

BSpencer Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Common Hymnal Digital (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Common Hymnal Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)

The Wilson Songbook Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)



Bles - sed are the ones who do not bur - y  
Bles - sed are the woun - ded ones in mour - ning,  
Bles - sed are the ones who walk in kind - ness  
Bles - sed are the ones who fight for jus - tice



all the bro - ken pie - ces of their heart.  
brave e - enough to show the Lord their scars.  
e - ven in the face of great a - buse.  
long - ing for the com - ing day of peace.



Bles - sed are the tears of all the wear - y,  
Bles - sed are the hurts that are not hid - den  
Bles - sed are the deeds that go un - no - ticed  
Bles - sed is the soul that thirsts for right - teous - ness,



pour - ing like a star of fall - ing stars.  
o - pen to the heal - ing touch of God.  
serv - ing with un - guar - ded gra - ti - tude.  
wel - com - ing the last, the lost, the least.



The King - dom is yours

The King - dom is yours.

Hold on a lit - tle

1.



more, this is not the end.

Hope is in the Lord, keep your eyes on Him.

B

2.

18

Lord, keep your eyes on Him. Oh Oh Oh

24

Oh Bles - sed are the ones who suf - fer

29

vio - lence and still have strength to love their en - e - mies.

32

Bles - sed is the faith of those who per-se-vere, though they fall, they'll ne-ver know de-feat.

35

The King - dom is yours The King - dom is yours.

39

Hold on a lit - tle more, this is not the end. Hope is in the

42

1. 2.

Lord, keep your eyes on Him. The King - dom is

## Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures  
here below; praise him above ye heav'n ly host;  
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## Teach Me Your Way, O Lord

420



1 Teach me your way, O Lord, teach me your way! Your guid - ing  
 2 When I am sad at heart, teach me your way! When earth - ly  
 3 When doubts and fears a - rise, teach me your way! When storm - clouds  
 4 Long as my life shall last, teach me your way! Wher - e'er my



grace af - ford—teach me your way! Help me to walk a - right, more by faith,  
 joys de - part, teach me your way! In hours of lone - li - ness, in times of  
 fill the skies, teach me your way! Shine thro' the wind and rain, thro' sor - row,  
 lot be cast, teach me your way! Un - til the race is run, un - til the



less by sight; lead me with heav'n - ly light—teach me your way!  
 dire dis - tress, in fail - ure or suc - cess, teach me your way!  
 grief, and pain; make now my path - way plain—teach me your way!  
 jour - ney's done, un - til the crown is won, teach me your way! 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@np covenant.org](mailto:copastors@np covenant.org) to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

**We welcome the Minnehaha Academy Singers** and their director, Karen Lutgen, to worship today. Thank you for sharing your musical gifts with us!

**Today is a Benevolence Sunday.** Members of the Deacon Board will be at the doors after the service to receive any donations to our benevolence fund, which is used to help those in need in our community. Online donations are always welcome, as well, via [www.npcovenant.org/give](http://www.npcovenant.org/give).

**All are invited to the parlors after worship** for a special coffee hour to welcome our new members!

**Vida Plena, a Spanish-speaking Covenant church plant** that meets here, invites you to worship every Sunday at 1:30 pm. For more information, please 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 an area of our community inspired by this month's community prayer. Please reach out to Janette and Rodriguez Smith at [rjonberber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjonberber@sbcglobal.net) for more details.

### **Lectionary texts for Sunday, February 8:**

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Psalm 112:1-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

**Exodus World Service Update February 11:** Related to today's community prayer, found on the next page, we invite you to join us for Gather dinner at 6 pm on Wednesday, February 11, followed by a time when we will get to hear from a representative from Exodus World Service and receive an update on their work and the state of refugee resettlement.

**Join us for an Ash Wednesday worship service.** On Wednesday, February 18, at 7 pm, all are invited to an Ash Wednesday service. We will share in the Lord's Supper, and the imposition of ashes will be offered.

**Are you a musician? A storyteller?** A poet or comedian? Do you have a fun skill that would astonish and impress your fellow churchgoers? Then we want you to sign up to participate in our annual Coffeehouse. On Saturday, February 21, at 6:30 pm, performers and audience members alike are invited to come to the church parlors for an evening that's like no other! We'll have coffee, lemonade, and lots of snacks to enjoy. You won't want to miss it! [Please reach out to emcee Joel Piotrowski](#) if you'd like to be added to the program.

**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.](#)

## *for your prayers this week*

- **Community prayer:** With ICE activity continuing in our city, state, and country, we invite you to pray for our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers. We pray for peace, safety, and an end to harmful practices and policies.
- **the people of Minneapolis, MN**, as they experience ICE activity
- **Emily Cody**, grateful to God for the unexpected gifts of her and Jacob's dog, Mavis, and of finding and becoming part of the NPCC and NPU communities
- **family and friends of Fran Fostey**, who passed away January 27 after a brief battle with cancer
- Pastor Libby's dad, **Craig Johnson**, who has been diagnosed with T cell lymphoma
- **Jane Swanson-Nystrom**, anticipating a lumpectomy procedure this coming Thursday
- **Eileen Thorpe**, now at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab for rehab
- **Paul Wargaski**, reuperating at home but retaining fluid and having difficulty breathing
- **Michael Shawn Sanders**, mourning the passing of his friend John C. on January 25
- **family and friends of Bud Hodgkinson**, who passed away on December 28
- **family and friends of Jewel Otten**, former regular attender here, who passed away January 7
- **John Goode**, receiving physical and occupational therapy for muscle weakness and being monitored for low heart rate
- **family and friends of Adam Griswold**, who passed away in early January
- Janice Finney's mother, **Shirley**, making strides toward improvement as her leg heals
- **Lilly Colon**, relieved that surgery will not be necessary on her fractured foot
- Ruthanne Werner's sister, **Debbie Gustafson**, for whom we have prayed in the past during her battle with metastatic breast cancer, now on hospice care; and Debbie's husband, **Don**, recuperating following triple bypass surgery a few weeks ago
- Julie and David Bromley's long-time friend **Tim Dixon**, rejoicing that doctors have seen a dramatic reduction in the cancer, extending his life expectancy
- **Darlene Johnson**, recovering from a badly broken arm
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, in need of bloodwork and a PET scan to determine if a lesion on her spleen is cancerous, but it's not covered by Medicaid
- Pastor Libby's four-year-old nephew, **Mo Johnson-Collins**, and his parents, awaiting next steps related to two masses on his liver, which have been determined to be benign
- **Lynn Pearson**, continuing to recuperate at home
- **Andrea Feijoo**, Janice Kelly's niece, diagnosed with an aggressive liver cancer
- Joline and Steve Paska's friend **Maggie**, diagnosed with stage 3 endometrial cancer
- **Melanie Jones**, for strength to live with chronic pain
- **Steve Brown**, who has been dealing with pancreatic cancer
- **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
- **Silas**, 12-year old son of Rachel and James Ventress, diagnosed with a degenerative bone disease
- **Mercedes**, 9-year-old daughter of Rachel and James Ventress, diagnosed with a form of epilepsy

## **The Church Calendar This Week**

---

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

---

### *Monday, February 2*

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
4 pm	Tutoring (Parlors)
4:20 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

### *Tuesday, February 3*

8 am	Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
4 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
8:15 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)

### *Wednesday, February 4*

10 am	Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
4:30 pm	George Soccer 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, February 5*

4:30 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### *Friday, February 6*

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
4:30 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)
	Middle-school Winter Retreat Departure (South Garden)

### *Saturday, February 7*

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
12:30 pm	George Soccer Practice (Gym)

*Sunday, February 8*

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 (Attic Youth Room)

## **North Park Covenant**

### **Church Staff**

Jeff Hunter, Co-pastor  
jhunter@npcoovenant.org  
ext. 525

Libby Piotrowski, Co-pastor  
lpiotrowski@npcoovenant.org  
ext. 515

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

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

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

Sam Parnin, Organist  
sparnin@npcoovenant.org

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

Christian Schuetz, Custodian  
cschuetz@npcoovenant.org

Ann-Marie Olson, Church Administrator  
aolson@npcoovenant.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@npcoovenant.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**

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,

Regional Coordinators for Latin America

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Chris Peterson, Regional Coordinator for Europe

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

### **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.*