



FEBRUARY 22, 2026
+ THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT +

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PRELUDE

Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go
Hymnal Selection 670, arr. Kenneth Leighton
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



CHORAL INTROIT

Once When Jesus Christ Was Hungry
Hymnal Selection 202, verses 1 and 4
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

* OPENING SONG

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me
Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson
Led by Andrew Berg, Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,
Robert Johnson, Sam Johnson, Brian Ward, and Lauren Wargaski

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Let us confess our sins to the God of steadfast love and forgiveness:

Holy God, forgive me for those times when I fail to trust you to provide the things I really need.

Silence

Holy God, forgive me when I put you to the test; asking you to prove yourself to me.

Silence

Holy God, forgive me when I seek worldly strength, power, and wealth, over and against the strength and power and reward that comes from following after your Son Jesus.

Silence

Dear Church, the good news is this: Through Christ, you are justified—just as if you'd never sinned. This is the free gift of grace through Christ Jesus our Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

* 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.

Jack Surridge, Reader

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jeff Hunter

CHORAL ANTHEM

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Hymnal Selection 224, arr. Hal H. Hopson

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

SUNG PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ben Kilgore, David Gungor,
Evan Wickham, Ian Cron, John Arndt

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

O for a Heart to Praise My God (Abridge)

C.S. Lang

* Sung Response 225, verse 3

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 214

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Introduction and Fughetta
Christian Heinrich Rinck
Brian Ward, Organ

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

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, and Rich Thompson

2018 CityAight Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)
Farren Love and War Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)
Integrity's Alleluia! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)



What gift of
The night is
No fate I
With e - very



grace is Je - sus my re - deem - er. There is no more for hea - ven now to
dark, but I am not for - sak - en. For by my side, the Sav - iour, He will
dread, I know I am for - giv - en. The fu - ture sure, the price it has been
breath, I long to fol - low Je - sus. For He has said that He will bring me



give He is my joy, my right - eous - ness and free - dom My stead - fast
stay. I la - bour on in weak - ness and re - joic - ing; In my
paid. For Je - sus bled and suf - fered for my par - don, and He was
home, and day by day, I know He will re - new me un - til I



love; my deep and bound - less peace. To this I hold, my hope is on - ly
need, His pow - er is dis - played. To this I hold, my Shep - herd will de -
raised to o - ver - throw the grave. To this I hold, my sin has been de -
stand with joy be - fore the throne. To this I hold, my hope is on - ly



Je - sus; for my life is whol - ly bound to His. Oh how
fend me; through the deep - est val - ley He will lead. Oh the
feat - ed; Je - sus now and e - ver is my plea. Oh the
Je - sus; All the glo - ry e - ver - more to Him. When the



strange and di - vine, I can sing, all is mine, Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
night has been won, and I shall o - ver - come, Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
chains are re - leased, I can sing, I am free, Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
race is complete, still my lips shall re - peat, Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Prayers of the People

The Brilliance

2015 Brownie Hawkeye Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)
Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)
Evan Wickham Music (Admin. by Moon & Musky Music)

A



You hear us call - ing, You hear us call - ing, Ab - ba, Fa - ther.

B



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have



mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.

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SUNG PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

FULL CHORUS

With thanks and praise to you, O God, for your church around the world. We pray that, together, we might work together as One, to live into your Kingdom here on earth; seeking reconciliation, justice, and peace. For hearts that are given to mercy and righteousness. For lives that embody the incarnate One. Help us, O God, to rejoice and be glad, trusting in your promises, assured of your blessing.

For your children—young and old and in between—in every corner of the globe, that we might, by your grace, find our way to forgiveness and acceptance of one another. That those who have much might yield to those who have little. That each and every one of us might recognize and embrace the *imago dei* in each and every person we meet.

Lord, hear our prayer.

CHORUS B

For an end to violence and hatred and discord; that we, your people, might steady the feet that rush into war, the fingers poised on triggers. Holy God, guide all those in positions of power—whether that power is political, religious, physical, or social—and give them wisdom to use their power wisely and for the good of all.

As we begin this season of Lent, O God, we ask for wisdom and courage to face the wilderness of our own failings and the messiness of our lives. In those places of brokenness, Lord, restore us to wholeness. In those places that feel empty, Lord, fill us anew.

Give us courage to love one another even when love seems like a risk. Give us compassion for those who are unlike us. Teach us to listen to those we disagree with, to hear stories that make us uncomfortable. Heal the hatred in the world around us by healing our own hearts first.

Lord, hear our prayer.

CHORUS B

For this church, O God. For North Park Covenant Church, as we seek to follow after You; body, mind, and spirit. Give us courage to look to the future with hope and excitement, with grateful expectation and anticipation. Keep us transparent and honest with one another, quick to ask for forgiveness and quick to forgive. Help us to walk blamelessly and do what is right, speaking the truth from our hearts.

For the denomination of which we are a part—The Evangelical Covenant Church. On this Founders' Day weekend, we give you thanks for all those who have gone before us; those who have laid the groundwork for this journey of faith together. And we give you thanks for all those who will walk in

faith as part of this larger body long after we have gone. Help us to better trust one another and You. Give us courage to have difficult conversations and help us to learn from our mistakes so that we might better live into what it means to be children of God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

CHORUS B

For the ways in which we fail you, O God—for the places we allow sin to creep in and take over our decision making. We ask your forgiveness. Continue to reshape us—mold us, make us—so that we begin to look more and more like you, that we may better serve you each and every day. Grant us each, Lord, the will and the strength to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You, our God. May your kingdom come, O God, in and through us. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us all to pray:

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.

Lord, hear our prayer.

FULL CHORUS twice through

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, ob - ject of the Spir - it's love,
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re - pent - ant vow,
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent love for you;

foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior from the world a - bove:
 though we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your thorn - en - cir - cled brow?
 may our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be - hold your cross a - new;

of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed, gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall!
 Yet your sin - less death has brought us life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest;
 till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side,

Yet, up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, you have borne the pain of all.
 on - ly what your grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
 grav - en in our hearts for - ev - er, dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied. A - men.

214 Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, for us did
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the
 3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst, so teach us,
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through your
 5 A - bide with us and through this life our doubts and

fast and pray, teach us to o - ver - come our
 vic - t'ry win, oh, give us strength in you to
 gra - cious Lord, to die to self, and so to
 Pas - sion - tide, for ev - er - more, in life and
 pain re - lieve. An Eas - ter of un - end - ing

sins, and close by you to stay.
 fight, in you to con - quer sin.
 live by your most ho - ly Word.
 death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 joy we shall at last re - ceive. 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.

If giving digitally is more your style, this handy QR code will take you directly to our online giving portal. It's a great pathway to one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to support NPCC. In the portal, you can make an account, set up recurring gifts, and even include a little extra to offset processing fees. However you give, know that we are deeply grateful for your generosity and doing all we can to equip this church family to live for God's glory and neighbors' good.



The rosebud at the front of the sanctuary today announces the birth of Kehlani Lina De La O Finney, born on February 19 to Naomi and Juan De La O Finney. Janice Finney is the proud grandmother.

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 an area of our community inspired by this month's community prayer. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details.

An Invitation to Journey through Lent Together: In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship services at 10:30, we will gather for a series of contemplative Lenten worship services each Sunday in Lent beginning at 6 pm. The 45-minute services will take place in the south chapel on February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22. Join us for a time of quiet prayer, music, singing, and communion.

The next meeting for the North Park Readers will be on Tuesday, February 24, at 7 pm. We will be reading *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson and will meet at Diane Haglund's house. Please contact Helen Arkema at helen.arkema@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Staff Away: Pastor Libby will be out of the office on Monday, February 23, and Thursday and Friday, February 26 and 27. If any needs arise, please reach out to Pastor Jeff.

The Board of Christian Formation invites you to a camping fundraiser on Saturday, March 7, from 5:30 to 7 pm! Do people request your deviled eggs by name? Is your Swedish meatball recipe basically a family heirloom? Or do you just love a good appetizer? Then you'll want to join us for Small Plates Showdown! Bring your bite-sized creation and enjoy a night of great food, friendly competition, prizes, and maybe even a camp song or two! All proceeds support camping scholarships, helping make camp possible for more students and families. If you register to bring a dish, Jeanette will reach out to you with more details. Please [register by March 4](#), whether you plan to enter a dish or not!

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, March 1:**

Genesis 12:1-4 a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Celebration of Life for Adam Griswold: All are invited to a time of remembrance and celebration of the life of Adam Griswold on Sunday, March 8, at 3:30 pm Tre Kronor (3258 W. Foster Ave.). Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 4, to Diane Haglund at 773-301-4159.

The Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch Returns! Join us on Sunday, March 15, following worship for a Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch in the parlors. RSVPs are required by Monday, March 9, [using this link](#).

Perspectives on Immigration and the Church: On Saturday, March 21, at 10 am, Central Conference Superintendent Danny Martinez will speak on this topic at the Covenant Church of Schaumburg (301 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg). All are invited to attend.

Review Time for Our Co-pastors: Have a compliment, comment, or concern about our co-pastors' performance? After church on March 8 and 15, co-chairs Susan Dawson and Nancy Ebner will be in the corner nursery off the south chapel for confidential conversation.

Mental Health First Aid Training March 28: Join us for Mental Health First Aid Training! During this course, we will meet with a certified instructor and learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns. We will also learn strategies for helping someone in crisis and non-crisis situations, where to turn for help, and earn an MHFA certificate. Lunch will be provided! [Click here to register](#) by March 22.

Represent North Park Covenant Church! We can send three delegates each to two ECC gatherings:
- **Celebration 2026**, the Central Conference Annual Meeting, to be held May 1-2 at Evangelical Covenant Church in Princeton, IL, and
- **Gather 2026**, the ECC's Annual Meeting, which will be held in Scottsdale, AZ, June 25-27.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact one of the co-pastors or co-chairs, [Susan Dawson](#) or [Nancy Ebner](#).

We are looking to fill a regular, paid childcare position in our Sunday morning toddler room. This position is in coordination with the Christian Formation Board and pays \$20 per hour, for two hours each Sunday (average need is two Sundays per month). If you love being with children, sharing Jesus' love, and are interested in this position, please reach out to Pastor Libby for more information.

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.
- **Chuck Olson**, recuperating after undergoing an ablation procedure this past Tuesday
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, awaiting results from a biopsy
- **Eileen Thorpe**, home again after a time at Brandel Care Center for rehab
- **Rosemary Slaughter**, going through a rough time and appreciative of prayers
- Pastor Libby's dad, **Craig Johnson**, who began chemo this past Friday
- **family and friends of Jack Lundbom**, a child of this church who passed away last week at age 86
- **Ruthanne Werner and family**, mourning the passing of her sister, Debbie Gustafson, on February 4
- our high-school youth ministry intern, **Jayvaughn Rice and family**, mourning the passing of his grandmother on February 1
- **Ryan and Sara Wendt**, starting life at the Covenant church in Albert City, IA; and for Ryan, in particular, as he recovers after being in a car accident in which their car was totaled
- **Paul Wargaski**, doing better now that he's on meds to address heart failure
- **John Goode**, receiving physical and occupational therapy for muscle weakness and being monitored for low heart rate
- **family and friends of Fran Fostey**, who passed away January 27 after a brief battle with cancer
- **Jane Swanson-Nystrom**, recuperating after a lumpectomy procedure on February 5
- **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
- **Darlene Johnson**, recovering from a badly broken wrist
- Pastor Libby's four-year-old nephew, **Mo Johnson-Collins**, being monitored for a few months related to two benign masses on his liver
- **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**, nine-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 and is updated as changes occur.

Monday, February 23

- 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 24

- 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 25

- 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 26

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

Friday, February 27

- 1 pm Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
- 4:30 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)

Saturday, February 28

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10 am Lane Tech Scandinavian Club Dance Rehearsal (Parlors)
- 10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 12:30 pm George Soccer Practice (Gym)

Sunday, February 29 - The Second Sunday in Lent

- 9 am Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
- 9:15 am Adult Formation (Parlors)
Art 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)
- 6 pm Evening Lenten Service (South Chapel)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)
High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

2026 Easter Memorials/Honoraria

You are invited to honor or memorialize a loved one, either with a flowering plant or a monetary gift. This year's donations will go toward The Friendship Center. Whether you choose one option or both, your name/s will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 5. *The deadline to submit a form is Wednesday, February 25.*



- I/We would like to order _____ Easter plant/s at \$25/plant.
- I/We would like to donate to support The Friendship Center.

Check Cash Online

Amount paid: \$ _____

*Please note: If paying online for a plant and making a donation, separate transactions must be done, selecting Flowers or The Friendship Center from the drop-down menu.
A paper form must be submitted to the office, regardless of payment method.*

Given in memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

Your name/s, as you would like it/them listed in the bulletin:

Phone

Email

Please place this form and your payment (if not paying online) in the offering plate or bring them to the church office. Thank you!

North Park Covenant Church Staff

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

Libby Piotrowski, Co-pastor
lp Piotrowski@npcovenant.org
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
loolfelt@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,
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Lyndsey Wellner,
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Jennifer Glazier,
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The Friendship Center

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Executive Director
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Chicago, Illinois 60625
(773) 907-6338

info@friendshipcenterchicago.org
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

Missionaries We Support

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Chris Peterson, Regional Coordinator for Europe

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,

Regional Coordinators for Latin America

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.

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