



MARCH 15, 2026  
+ THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT +

MARCH 15, 2026  
+ THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT +

PRELUDE

*Aus der Tiefe rufe ich* (Out of the depths I cry, Lord, to thee)  
Hymnal Selection 361, arr. C.P.E. Bach  
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



CHORAL INTROIT

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy  
Hymnal Selection 71, verses 1 and 2  
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. Amen.**

\* OPENING SONG

Shepherd  
Bart Millard, David Crowder, Hank Bentley, Mia Fieldes  
Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,  
Samantha Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**Merciful God, we come to you this morning very aware of the ways in which we are blind to your way of light and truth in this world. Hear us as we pray in silence now, confessing the ways in which our blindness keeps us from living as true disciples in a world that so desperately needs your light and truth.**

*Silence*

**Forgive us, we pray, and may your glory be known throughout all the earth.**

Hear the Good News: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ, so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life. Live into that truth and rejoice. Your sins are forgiven. Amen.

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May 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.**

Kristen Engebretson and Jim Meyer, Readers

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jeff Hunter

CHORAL ANTHEM

Let My Heart Be Quiet

Heather Schopf

Lord, let my heart be quiet, command my thoughts to still,  
and capture my attention to Your will.

Of all the thousand voices 'round that clamor in my ear,  
let it be Your voice, the voice that I can hear.

Lord, let my heart be quiet, let all distraction cease.

Make room within my heart for perfect peace.

Lord, let my heart be quiet and ready to receive  
eternal Words of truth You have decreed.

And let me learn to linger in quiet times of prayer;

unhurried, let me often meet You there.

Oh, let my heart be quiet; my restless mind subdue.

Let all my expectation come from You,  
and daily help me choose to let my inward self be still,  
so that Your voice my quiet mind can fill.

Lord, let my heart be quiet, Lord, let my heart be still.

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

RESPONSIVE HYMN 367

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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

Lord Jesus, Think on Me  
Hymnal Selection 362, arr. Healey Willan  
Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

\* Sung Response 225, verse 3

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 341

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Canzona*  
Domenico Zipoli  
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.*

*Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.  
In addition, if you have prayer requests to be shared confidentially with the pastors,  
there is a prayer box located in the narthex, as well as slips of paper and a pen  
in the box's drawer for your use.*

# Shepherd

David Crowder

2016 Simply Complex Songs (Admin. by BMG Rights Management [c/o Music Services, Inc.])  
Inot Music (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)  
Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
Bentley Street Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
Upside Down Under (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
Bartatronic Millaphonic (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)



The Lord, my por-tion I shall not want. The Lord, my com-fort  
The Lord, my keep-er I stand se - cure. The Lord, my heal-er



I shall not fear. Yea, though I walk through the val-ley low, yea, though the path gets  
Your love en - dures.



steep, Sure-ly good - ness will fol - low me, e-very pro - mise will be  
Third time, back to "Surely goodness"



light to my feet. When my heart is prone to wan-der - ing, Je - sus, You shep-herd



me. me, and I will dwell for all my days in the



shad - ow of Your re - lent - less grace. And I will dwell for

*D.S. al Fine*



all my days in Your pre - sence, Your pre - sence. Sure-ly

## 367 I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol- low  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at  
 3 I'm look- ing for the com- ing of Christ; I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the  
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ- teous-ness, shine on my path, and  
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa- tience the race, we

*Refrain*

star of my life is Je - sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God: shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## 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*

## 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.

# Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound 341

G G/D D7 Em C G

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound—  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me,  
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares,  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,

G G/D D/C G/B D7/A G G/B

that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost  
 and grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did  
 his Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield  
 I have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought  
 bright shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days

C G G/B Em G/D G/D D7 G

but now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 to sing God's praise then when we'd first be - gun.

# *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](mailto: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.



**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](mailto:rjonberber@sbcglobal.net) for more details.

**Brief Congregational Meeting Today:** Directly after worship today, we will hold a brief congregational meeting to vote on the Building with Faithfulness tithe monies from this past year.

At their February meeting, the Executive Council voted to approve the following distribution (the number in parentheses is the percentage vote each organization received):

- Exodus World Service (71.4%) \$5,000
- Tre Kronor (69.0%) \$4,500
- Hollywood North Park Community Association (64.3%) \$2,000
- Covenant Harbor Bible Camp (54.8%) \$3,046
- MUSIC/Sara Dupuis (40.5%) \$1,500
- InterVarsity (35.8%) \$1,500

We will remain in the sanctuary for this meeting, during which we'll vote on how to distribute the funds, and then those who have registered for the Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch may make their way to the parlors.

**Easter Cards to Sign:** The Board of Deacons will have Easter cards to be sent to people who are not able to get to church in person. They will be out on tables in the parlors this week and next, for the congregation to sign. We invite you to make your way to the parlors after the service today to sign them.

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

**An Invitation to Journey through Lent Together:** In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship services at 10:30, we have been gathering for a series of contemplative Lenten worship services each Sunday in Lent, at 6 pm. The 45-minute services take place in the south chapel, and the remaining service dates are March 15 and 22. Join us for a time of quiet prayer, music, singing, and communion.

**Lectionary texts for  
Sunday, March 22:**

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

**Join Us for a Wedding Shower!** On Saturday, March 21, all are invited to a wedding shower for Linnea Olfelt and Ben Holda. The shower will begin at 10 am, and Linnea and Ben are registered at Crate & Barrel, IKEA, and Target. We hope you'll be able to join us!

**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.

**Virtual Prayer Vigil March 28:** We invite you to join us for a time of prayer in the comfort of your own home. On Saturday, March 28, all are welcome to sign up for a half-hour slot (or more) to pray as you feel led for our church, our city, our nation, and our world. [You may sign up here.](#)

**Mental Health First Aid Training March 28:** 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! To register, please [click here](#) by March 22.

**Save the Date!** Linnea Olfelt and Ben Holda invite you to share in their joy as they are married in our sanctuary on Saturday, April 18. The ceremony will begin at 1 pm, followed by a light reception in the parlors. All are invited!

**Represent North Park Covenant Church!** We can send three delegates each to two ECC gatherings:  
*Gather 2026* - ECC Annual Meeting - 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.

**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—thank you!

## *for your prayers this week*

- **Community prayer:** People struggling with their mental health
- **We lament the violent destruction of life** happening in the Middle East, and we pray for real and abiding peace in the land.
- **Betty Boyd**, Jon's mother, recuperating after undergoing a kyfoplasty procedure (minimally invasive back surgery) to repair her broken vertebrae this past week
- **Phil Johnson**, Lisa Applequist's dad, recuperating at Brandel Care Center after a fall and subsequent partial hip-replacement surgery
- Pastor Libby's dad, **Craig Johnson**, home again after a brief hospitalization for pneumonia and doing well
- **John Goode**, at Alden Northshore for rehab
- **Ann Marie Strom**, diagnosed with a melanoma and undergoing chemo
- **Paul Wargaski**, now undergoing cardiac rehab
- **K and A Simmons**, for whom we've received an anonymous request for prayer
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, awaiting results from a biopsy
- **Eileen Thorpe**, home again after a time at Brandel Care Center for rehab
- **family and friends of Jack Lundbom**, a child of this church who passed away on February 17 at the age of 86
- **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
- 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

## 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, March 16*

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

### *Tuesday, March 17*

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

### *Wednesday, March 18*

- 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, March 19*

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm Know Your Rights Seminar (Parlors)

### *Friday, March 20*

- 1 pm Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)

### *Saturday, March 21*

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10 am Olfelt/Holda Wedding Shower (Parlors)
- 10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

### *Sunday, March 22 - The Fifth 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)
- 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)

## **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  
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/npcpp

---

## **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

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.*

5250 NORTH CHRISTIANA AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625  
NPCC@NPCOVENANT.ORG • (773) 463-0055 • WWW.NPCOVENANT.ORG