



MARCH 22, 2026
+ THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT +

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PRELUDE

Sweet Hour of Prayer
arr. C.E. Waltz
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Emily Cody



CHORAL INTROIT

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Hymnal Selection 71, verses 3 and 4
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 130

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord! Lord, hear us!

Lord, let your ears be attentive to the voice of our supplications.

There is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

And so we wait for you, O Lord. Our souls wait, and in your word we hope!

We wait for you O Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

We wait for you more than those who watch for the morning.

For with the Lord, there is steadfast love and the great power to redeem. Amen!

* OPENING HYMN 226

What Wondrous Love Is This

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CHORAL ANTHEM

Search Me, O God
C. Harry Causey

Search me, O God, search me, O Father, and know my heart.

Try me, O God, try me, O Father, and know all my thoughts.

And see if there be any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Search me, O God, search me, O Father, and know my heart.

Try me, O God, try me, O Father, and know all my thoughts.

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Church, hear the Good News. You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit gives life to your mortal body! Through Christ, we are a forgiven people. Amen and Amen.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

Emily and Riley Kiltz, Readers

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jeanette Mottl

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Desert Song

Brooke Ligertwood

Led by Chris Hickey, Anders Johnson,
Jeanette Mottl, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887 (Using *sins*)

Emily Cody

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Hymnal Selection 224, arr. Hart Morris

Chancel Handbell Choir, Linnea Olfelt, Director

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

* Sung Response 225, verse 3

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 752

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

* BENEDICTION

Sometimes we say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely."

Sometimes we ask, "Can these bones live?"

Friends, Christ is the resurrection and the life.

What is dry and brittle and lifeless in us is redeemed in Him. In his Word there is hope!

We rejoice in this Good News and leave this place to share Christ's hope with the world.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

When Jesus Wept

arr. David Schelat

Sam Parnin, 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.*

What Wondrous Love

226

In unison

1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down; when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down; when I was sink - ing down be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my
 neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 is the great "I Am," while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul; to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.
 soul, for my soul; Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Desert Song

Brooke Ligertwood

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This is my prayer in the des-ert when all that's with-in me feels



dry. This is my prayer in my hun-ger and need my



God is the God who pro - vides This is my prayer in the
This is my prayer in the



fi - re in weak - ness or tri - al or pain.
bat - tle when tri - umph is still on its way.



There is a faith proved of more worth than gold, so re - fine me, Lord, through the
I am a con-queror and co - heir with Christ, so firm on His pro - mise I'll



flame. I will bring praise. I will bring praise No weap - on formed
stand.



a-against me shall re - main I will re - jice I will de - clare God is my vic -

24 1.



to - ry and He is here.

29



here. All of my life in e-very sea - son You

33



are still God I have a rea - son to sing I have a rea - son to wor-

37



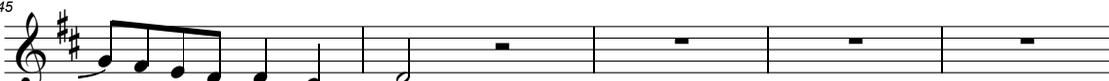
ship. and I will bring praise, I will bring praise No wea-pon formed

41



against me shall re - main I will re-joice I will de-clare God is my vic-

45



to - ry and He is here.

50



This is my prayer in the har-vest when fa - vor and pro-vi-dence flow

54



I know I'm filled to be emp-tied a-gain the seed I've re-ceived I will sow.

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.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

In unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple
 2 There's a song in ev-'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -

tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be
 dy; there's a dawn in ev-'ry dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and
 ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni -

free! In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to
 me. From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter -
 ty; in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to -

be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 y, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 ry, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

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.



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.

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 today for the congregation to sign. We invite you to make your way to the parlors after the service to sign them.

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.](#)

Join us for Mental Health First Aid Training on March 28: During this course, we'll meet with a certified instructor, learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, and 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! [Registration is required](#) by the end of the day today.

Palm Procession and All-church Breakfast Next Sunday! Join us next Sunday, March 29, at 9:15 am for a palm procession through the neighborhood, followed by an all-church breakfast in the parlors. We'll meet in the south garden before the procession. All are welcome!

Memorial Services: A memorial service for **Jack Lundbom**, who passed away on February 17, will take place in our sanctuary on Monday, March 30, at 1 pm, followed by a reception in the parlors. A memorial service for **Lee Horten**, who passed away on December 10, 2025, will be held on Saturday, April 18, at 2 pm at Covenant Living of Northbrook (2625 Techny Rd., Northbrook). All are invited to attend these celebrations of life and to bear witness to the resurrection.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, March 29:**

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 27:11-54

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!

Film Screening & Book Discussion: The documentary *Ben Between Africa* and Holly Berkley Fletcher's book *The Missionary Kids* open a powerful dialogue about growing up between cultures, the legacy of missionary movements, and the search for belonging. Join us on Saturday, April 25, at 6:30 pm for a special screening, followed by an engaging discussion with Berkley Fletcher. For more details or to purchase tickets, please [click here](#).

Represent North Park Covenant Church! Delegates are still needed for the ECC's Annual Meeting, Gather 2026, in Scottsdale, AZ, June 25-27. Virtual attendance is an option, if you're unable to travel. If you're 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!

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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, and for our military and their families in the midst of the dangerous and scary time.
- **David Bromley**, recuperating after having a stent inserted and undergoing angioplasty last week, and for **Julie**, as she cares for him
- **Sandy Edstrom**, as she continues to experience painful sciatica
- **Betty Boyd**, Jon's mother, recuperating well after undergoing a kyphoplasty procedure
- **Eileen Thorpe**, praying for wisdom and discernment for next steps of care
- **Phil Johnson**, home again after a time at Brandel Care Center following partial hip-replacement surgery
- Pastor Libby's dad, **Craig Johnson**, as he undergoes chemotherapy
- **Barb and John Goode**, while John is at Alden Northshore for rehab
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, whose biopsy was benign, but whose doctors still can't pinpoint the source of the pain she's experiencing
- **Ann Marie Strom**, undergoing infusions for melanoma
- **Paul Wargaski**, now undergoing cardiac rehab
- **K and A Simmons**, for whom we've received an anonymous request for prayer
- **Darlene Johnson**, recovering from a badly broken wrist
- 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 and is updated as changes occur.

Monday, March 23

- 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, March 24

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, March 25

- 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)

Friday, March 27

- 1 pm Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)

Saturday, March 28

- 7 am Spring Virtual Prayer Vigil
- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 9 am Mental Health First Aid Training (Large Conference Room)
- 10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, March 29 - Palms & Passion Sunday

- 9:15 am Palm Procession through Neighborhood (Meet in South Garden)
- 9:45 am All-church Breakfast (Parlors)
- 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

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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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