



NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

APRIL 19, 2026
+ THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER +

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PRELUDE

Christians, We Have Met to Worship
Hymnal Selection 502, arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



CHORAL INTROIT

He Is Lord
Hymnal Selection 310, verses 1 and 4
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 116

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me, and I suffered in distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord, and he answered me.

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord!

* OPENING HYMN 250

This Joyful Eastertide

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Risen Savior Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Easter Season Acts Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Johanna Fernandez, Reader

Acts 2:14a, 36-42

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

ANTHEM

Day by Day
arr. Paul Christiansen

Day by day in mercy, Lord, attend me, O what comfort in this hope to rest!
All that Thou in love divine dost send me, draws me, Savior, closer to Thy breast.
Thou dost love more tenderly than ever; earthly father careth for his own:
sorrow's heavy burden Thou wilt never suffer me to carry all alone.

O what joy to live within Thy favor, trustingly to rest my soul in Thee;
help me, Lord, that I may never waver, nor forget Thy loving care for me;
for I know no matter what betide me, Thou wilt ever hold me by the hand;
with Thy presence, Savior, here to guide me, I shall reach at last my native land.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jeff Hunter

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Here's My Heart, Lord
Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Louie Giglio
Led by Jon Boyd, Chris Hickey, Kristen Hunter,
Anders Johnson, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
arr. Paul Johnson
He Lives!

* Sung Response 253, verse 3

* Prayer of Dedication

PRAYER OF SENDING FOR PASTOR JEFF AND FAMILY

CLOSING HYMN 349

We Walk by Faith

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festive Postlude on *Truro*
arr. Mary McDonald

*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.*

This Joyful Eastertide

250

In unison

1 This joy-ful Eas-ter-tide, a-way with sin and sor-row;
 2 My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a sea-son slum-ber,
 3 Death's flood has lost its chill, since Je-sus crossed the riv-er;

my Lord, the cru-ci-fied, has sprung to life this mor-row.
 'till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in num-ber.
 lov-er of souls, from ill my pass-ing soul de-liv-er.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day pris-on,

our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ a-ris-en, a-

ris-en, a-ris-en, but now has Christ a-ris-en.

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

Here's My Heart, Lord

Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, and Louie Giglio

S. D. G. Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) / sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
sixsteps Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) / Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) / Open Hands Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)



Here's my heart, Lord. Here's my heart, Lord. Here's my heart, Lord.



Speak what is true. I am found, I am Yours,



I am loved, I'm made pure. I have life, I can breathe,



I am healed, I am free. You are strong,



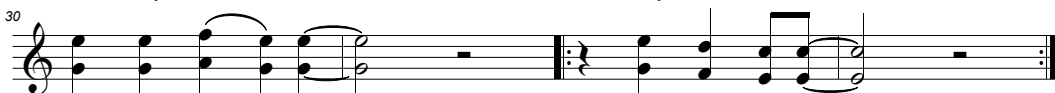
You are sure, You are life, You en - dure. You are good,



al - ways true, You are light break - ing through.



Here's my heart, Lord. Here's my heart, Lord.
Here's my life, Lord. Here's my life, Lord.



Here's my heart, Lord. Speak what is true.
Here's my life, Lord. Speak what is true.

He Lives

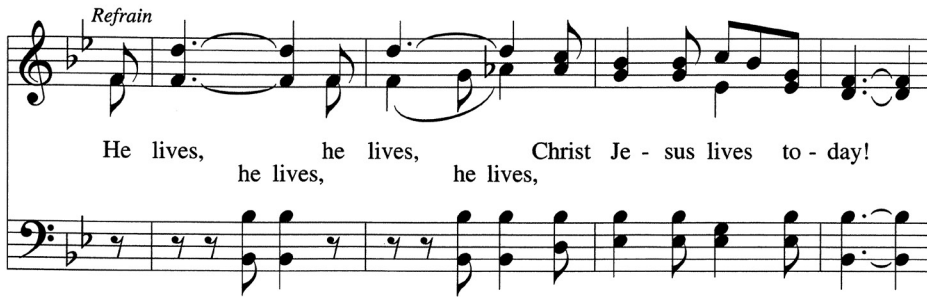
1 I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
 2 In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
 3 Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing

I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er some may say;
 and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
 e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!

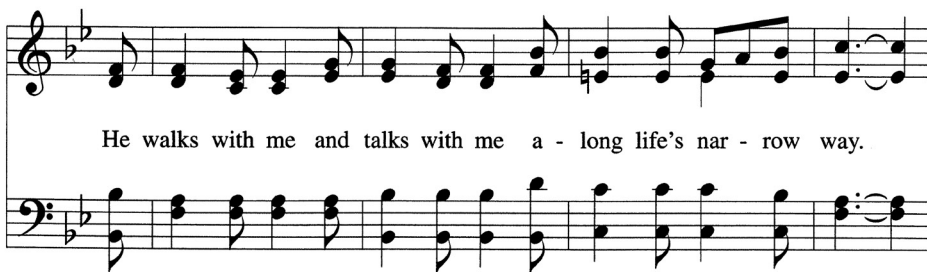
I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
 I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,
 The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,

and just the time I need him he's al - ways near.
 the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
 none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

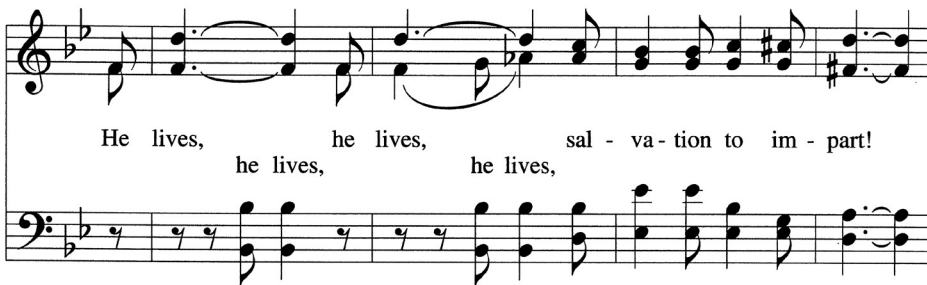
Refrain



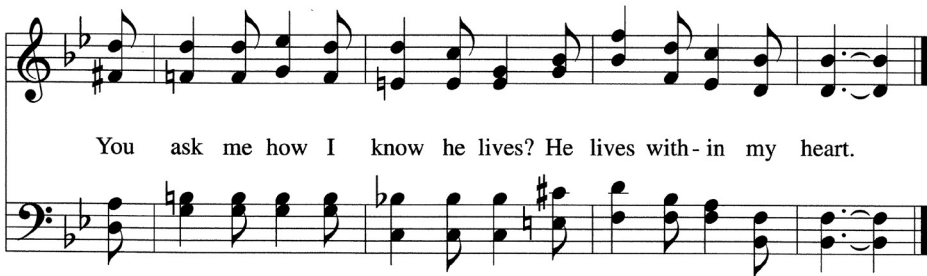
He lives, he lives, he lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day!



He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.



He lives, he lives, he lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!



You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with-in my heart.

We Walk by Faith

349

E A D E

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un-belief, and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

F#m DM7 Bm7/E E F#m

gra-cious words we hear from him who spoke as
 fol-low where he trod, yet in his prom-ise
 may our faith a-bound to call on you when
 realms of clear-er light may we be-hold you

C#m7 D E7 A

none e'er spoke, but we be-lieve him near.
 we re-joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, and seek where you are found.
 as you are in full and end-less sight.

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. They meet at 10 am each week, and this coming Saturday, you can join them on the southwest corner of Kedzie and Balmoral. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details. All are welcome; no need to RSVP!

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 April 25, at 6:30 pm for a special screening, followed by an engaging discussion with Berkley Fletcher. For more information or to purchase tickets, please [click here](#).

The second half of the Annual Congregational meeting will take place next Sunday, April 26, following the morning service. The agenda includes voting on the ballot for board and committee membership, church executive leadership, and church representatives to the conference and denominational annual meetings; a request for funds for needed sewer work; a proposal for the possible use of Employee Retention Credit funds; the bylaw change presented in January and a proposal for the purchase of a new fire alarm system for the church.

There will be a town hall today following worship to discuss these agenda items. A light lunch will be provided. As a reminder, a town hall is designed for conversation and Q&A. There is no voting.

April is poetry month, and the North Park Readers have chosen to read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein and *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson. We will meet on Tuesday, April 28, at 2 pm at Jan Olson's apartment in Northbrook. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Arkema at helen.arkema@gmail.com.

Join us for two wedding showers! On Saturday, May 2, all are invited to a wedding shower for Eunji Lee and Sam Parnin, in the church parlors at 10:30 am. [You can find Eunji and Sam's registry here.](#)

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, April 26:**

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

On Saturday, May 16, all* are invited to a wedding shower for Sofie Piotrowski and Simon Peterson. The shower will take place in the church parlors at 1 pm. You can [view Sofie and Simon's registry here.](#)

* Guys can come, too—keep Joel and Kurt company!

The World Vision Global 6K is great because you can do it anywhere! Walk or run the distance, by yourself or with your family, and be part of this global movement to change lives. Whether you join from the treadmill, your favorite trail, the neighborhood, or the track, you'll bring life-changing clean water to those who need it most.

While NPCC will not be forming an official team this year, and there will not be a Chicago site, we encourage you to join with Sue Vandervoort on Saturday, May 16, at 10 am and walk to raise money for clean water all over the world. [Let Sue know](#) if you'd like to join her! To join the NPCC team, please go to global6k.worldvision.org/teams/40407. Or, to donate to Sue's efforts, please go to global6k.worldvision.org/participants/464884.

Did you know we have a weekly prayer group? On Friday afternoons at 1 pm, a small group gets together in the home of Sandy Edstrom to pray. The present group would love to welcome some additional prayer partners! If you're interested, please reach out to Sandy at artsaned@gmail.com, and she can answer any questions you may have.

Church Library News: April is National Poetry Month, which celebrates poets' integral role in our culture. Collections of poetry, as well as books about poetry, are on display. There is also a display board with poems from our congregation. The display board will also be available for viewing in the parlors during Gather through the end of April.

A big thank you to our local poets who contributed to the display: Susan Dawson, Janice Finney, Barbara Hunt, and Paul De Neui.

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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The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, April 20

- 9:15 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
- 3:45 pm Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 4 pm Tutoring (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
- 7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, April 21

- 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, April 22

- 10 am Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
- 3:45 pm Von Steuben Boys' Basketball 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, April 23

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, April 24

- 1 pm Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
- 6 pm Senior Banquet (Parlors)

Saturday, April 25

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 6:30 pm Missionary Kid Film Screening & Book Discussion (Parlors)

Sunday, April 26

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

for your prayers this week

- **Community prayer:** Apartment buildings and houses surround NPCC, and this month, we call to mind and pray for all the families and individuals who live in them.
- Joline and Steve Paska's friend **Maggie**, in remission and anticipating immunotherapy treatments
- Janice Finney's mom, **Shirley Finney**, who had a stroke recently and is back in hospice care
- **Kensy Colon**, recuperating after surgery this past Thursday to remove two ovarian masses
- **Betty Boyd**, Jon's mother, on hospice
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice
- **Eileen Thorpe**, home again after some time at Swedish for some much-needed TLC
- **Barb and John Goode**, as they adjust to life with in-home caregivers
- **Craig Johnson**, Pastor Libby's dad, in the midst of chemo
- Zeynab's daughter, **Soofia**, seeing movement regarding her release from the detention center she has been in for the past many months
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still struggling with sciatica pain
- **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
- **Darlene Johnson**, recovering from a badly broken wrist
- **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
- **Anna and Peter Kim**, missionaries in Taiwan, request prayers for Peter, as he continues to work twice a week as a counselor in training; for wisdom to know how best to provide Eva a good future in the midst of her special needs; and for their children, as they all look for summer jobs

BALLOT FOR APRIL 26, 2026

Officers

- Co-chairs: Nancy Ebner
Dave Schlensker
- Co-secretaries: Lisa Applequist
Jane Swanson-Nystrom
- Treasurer: Samantha Johnson

Board of Christian Formation (3 years)

1. Mark Schukas
- 2.
3. Martha Berg (1 year)

Board of Community Concern (3 years)

1. Joel Olfelt
2. Bonnie Pfeiffelman

Board of Deacons (3 years)

1. Ann Boyd
2. Mary Chase-Ziolek
- 3.
4. Bill Faude (1 year)

Board of Trustees (3 years)

1. Helen Arkema
2. Gaius Berg
3. Mike Polzin

Human Resources Committee

- 1.

Delegates, Central Conference Annual Meeting: Princeton, IL

1. Cheryl Borgeson
2. Les Carlstrom
3. Michael Shawn Sanders

Delegates, ECC Annual Meeting: Scottsdale, AZ

1. Martha Berg
2. Michael Shawn Sanders
- 3.

North Park Covenant Church Staff

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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
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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.

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