



NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

MAY 3, 2026
+ THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER +
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 3, 2026
+ THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER +
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

PRELUDE

He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought!
Hymnal Selection 404, arr. Jason W. Krug
Sam Parnin, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski



* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Bjorn Johnson

Come, people of God!
Take refuge in the Lord,
who listens when we cry out,
who rescues us when we call,
who leads and guides us according to his unfailing love.
You are our God; our lives are in your hands.
Let us worship God together!

* OPENING HYMN 23

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dillan Rizzo

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, forever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Confirmands will read from the New Living Translation.

Easter Season Acts Reading

Acts 7:55-60 - Johanna Frisk

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10 - Sienna Berg

* Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14 - Suelexia Rodriguez

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Rosie Boyd

CHORAL ANTHEM

Walk in Jerusalem

Rollo Dilworth

Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

I want to be ready. I want to be ready.

I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

I want to be ready. I want to be ready. Oh, I want to be ready.

Are you ready to walk? Are you ready?

Are you ready to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John?

John said the city was jus' four square. (Walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.)

And he declared he'd meet me there. (Walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.)

O John, O John, what do you say? (Walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.)

I'll be there in the comin' day. (Walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.)

I am ready to walk. Yes, I'm ready to walk.

I am ready to walk, ready to walk.

Ready to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John!

MESSAGE

Jeanette Mottl

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Cornerstone

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin,

Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury

Led by Andrew Berg, Chris Hickey, Anders Johnson,

Robert Johnson, Samantha Johnson, and Brian Ward

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmands

Sienna Elise Berg

Johanna Marie Frisk

Bjorn Carl Johnson

Dillan Paul Rizzo

Suelexia Anai Aoki Rodriguez

Address to the Congregation

Statements of Intent

* The Apostles' Creed 878

Confession of Personal Faith

Prayers of Blessing

THE 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 in the Elements

Communion Music

Give Thanks

Hymnal Selection 74, arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer of Thanksgiving

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Weslee Johnson

*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

Not Be Shaken

Norm Strauss

Andrew Berg, Chris Hickey, Anders Johnson,
Robert Johnson, Samantha Johnson, and Brian Ward

I will declare my choice to the nations;
shout for joy in the congregation.

I will worship God all my days.
Those who love the Lord are satisfied.
Those who trust in Him are justified.

I will serve my God all my days.

When the nations crumble,
the word of the Lord will stand.

Kings may rise and fall;
His love will endure.

Though the strong may stumble,
the joy of the Lord is strength to my soul.
I will not be shaken. I will not be moved.

I will not be shaken.

* Sung Response 253, verse 3

He Lives

* Prayer of Dedication

* WORDS OF SENDING

Eighth-grade Confirmands

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Peace of God
Sir John Rutter

The peace of God,
which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost
be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

Carillon Toccata
Douglas E. Wagner

*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.*

ABOUT THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Children are called the “heritage of the Lord.” Their value to God is unmatched, and the Bible makes it clear that their education and nurture in the Lord is of utmost importance. Confirmation in the Covenant Church is designed to be a systematic exploration of God’s word, the history of our faith, and the importance of living a Christian life. Within the curriculum, there is opportunity not only for education in biblical truth, but also for students to come face to face with the call of Jesus to enter into a personal relationship with him and grow in their faith.

The focus of the confirmation process is twofold. First, students have an opportunity to learn of the church’s history, truths of the Christian faith, and the stories of the Bible. Second, students develop discipling relationships with pastors and mentors, and there is a continuing emphasis on the discipling relationship between parents and children. At whatever point students are in their faith journey, this balance of learning and relationship is critical to the impact of the confirmation process on their lives. Not only do they learn what the Bible says, through discipleship they learn to articulate what they believe about the Bible’s message and how biblical faith translates into Christian living and responsibility in the world.

23 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

1 O wor-ship the King all glo-rious a-bove, and grate-ful-ly
 2 O tell of his might and sing of his grace, whose robe is the
 3 Thy boun-ti-ful care what tongue can re-cite? It breathes in the
 4 Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee-ble as frail, in thee do we

sing his won-der-ful love; our Shield and De-fend-er, the An-cient of
 light, whose can-o-py space; his char-iots of wrath the deep thun-der-clouds
 air, it shines in the light, it streams from the hills, it de-scends to the
 trust, nor find thee to fail; thy mer-cies how ten-der, how firm to the

Days, pa-vil-ion'd in splen-dor and gird-ed with praise.
 form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
 plain, and sweet-ly dis-tills in the dew and the rain.
 end, our Mak-er, De-fend-er, Re-deem-er, and Friend. A-men.

Optional final stanza *Descant*

slowing *In unison*

Friend. 5 O mea-sure-less might, un-

5 O mea-sure-less might, un-

ADORATION AND PRAISE

change - a - ble love, whom an - gels de - light to wor - ship a -

change - a - ble love, whom an - gels de - light to wor - ship a -

Detailed description: This system contains three staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one flat) with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are "change - a - ble love, whom an - gels de - light to wor - ship a -". The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, featuring a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. The bottom staff is the bass line, providing a harmonic foundation with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

bove! Thy cre - a - tion, with glo - ry a - blaze, in

bove! Thy ran - somed cre - a - tion, with glo - ry a - blaze, in

Detailed description: This system contains three staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "bove! Thy cre - a - tion, with glo - ry a - blaze, in". The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, with chords and a melodic line in the right hand. The bottom staff is the bass line, consisting of a simple eighth-note pattern.

true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to thy praise. A - men.

true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to thy praise. A - men.

Detailed description: This system contains three staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics "true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to thy praise. A - men.". The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, ending with a final chord. The bottom staff is the bass line, concluding the piece with a final chord.

Cornerstone

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury

2011 Hillsong MP Songs (Admin. by Hillsong Music Publishing USA)
Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Hillsong Music Publishing USA)
Hillsong Music Publishing UK (Admin. by Hillsong Music Publishing USA)

C F

5 C F G

My hope is built on no-thing less than Je-sus' blood and right-eous-ness.
My hope is built on no-thing less than Je-sus' blood and right-eous-ness.
When dark-ness seems to hide His face, I rest in His un-chang-ing grace.

9 Am C F G C

I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but whol-ly trust in Je - sus' name.
I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but whol-ly trust in Je- sus' name.
In e-very high and storm-y gale, my an-chor holds with-in the veil.

13 F G F G

Christ a-lone, Cor-ner-stone. Weak made strong in Sa-viour's love. Through the

18 F G to Coda 1. C 2. C

storm, He is Lord, Lord of all all.

22 Am F G D.S. al Coda

He is Lord. Lord of all Christ a -

27 Coda

all. Lord of all.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

This creed is called the Apostles' Creed not because it was produced by the apostles themselves, but because it contains a brief summary of their teachings. In its present form, it is dated not later than the fourth century.

878

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hades*;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy Christian[†] Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Traditional

* some versions read "hell" †literally "catholic," or "universal"

As We Gather at Your Table

551

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your Word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Grant us vi - sion, gra - cious Spir - it, seek - ing guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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

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

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

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

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.



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.

All are invited to a special coffee hour today after worship to celebrate our confirmands. Refreshments will be provided in the parlors on the lower level.

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 at the intersection of Spaulding and Catalpa. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details. All are welcome; no need to RSVP!

Join us for a wedding shower! 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!

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!

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.

Sue Vandervoort is pulling together an NPCC team this year, and we encourage you to join her on Saturday, May 16, at 10 am to walk and raise money for clean water all over the world. Let Sue know (773-769-1963, no texts, please) if you'd like to join her! To join the NPCC team, please [click here](#). Or, to donate to Sue's efforts, please [click here](#).

On May 31, 2026, at 3 pm, Sam Parnin will perform an organ recital here at NPCC! It will include works by J.S. Bach, Jean Langlais, Charles-Marie Widor, Dieterich Buxtehude, and more! The program will showcase a variety of styles, moods, and sounds. While the music will be the main focus, there will also be commentary on the background of the pieces and composers. All are welcome to come and enjoy!

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, May 10:**

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Covenant missionaries Fabio and Johnna Muniz and their two girls will be returning to the States, specifically the North Park neighborhood for a year, beginning on August 6 of this year. The girls will be attending Peterson School, and the family will be living in seminary housing beginning September 1. It will be really fun to have them around, and they hope to get involved at

NPCC. However, they are need of a couple of things:

1. Temporary housing between August 6 and September 1
2. A car they can use for the year that would fit all four of them (they are willing to rent it from someone if that would be helpful)

If you are willing to consider either of these requests, please reach out to Pastor Libby, and she will put you in contact with the Muniz family.

A wonderfully tangible way to care for students at North Park University is to contribute to the [Viking Pantry](#), the community food pantry on campus. During the summer break, which runs from May 9 through August 9, the dining hall is not open. Therefore, there is no access to food and basic needs. For students who remain on campus, this can be especially difficult.

Between Sunday, May 3, and Sunday, May 17, we will be collecting items to bring to the pantry. There is a labeled bin in the narthex for your donations. [Please see their Amazon Wish List here](#). Or consider giving some of these highest-need items:

- microwavable rice, pasta, and other ready-to-make meals
- breakfast items (like cereal, oatmeal cups, and granola bars)
- canned proteins (like tuna and Spam)
- toilet paper
- toothpaste, mouthwash
- body wash
- paper towels
- laundry detergent

The Friendship Center food pantry is seeking passionate community members to join our Board of Directors at a time where food insecurity is rising in our communities. We especially welcome candidates with experience in marketing, communications, or development/fundraising, though all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Board members are asked to participate in bi-monthly meetings and a modest annual give/get commitment to support our mission. If interested, please contact Steve Paska at stevepsk@gmail.com.

for your prayers this week

- **Community prayer:** With the school year coming to a close and all of the exciting and difficult changes that come with that transition, we pray specifically for the students, staff, and faculty at North Park University and Northeastern Illinois University.
- **the Buffalo Grove High School community**, who tragically lost a beloved staff member in an accident right outside of school last week
- **the families of the officers shot**, one of whom fatally, at Swedish Hospital last Saturday
- **Eileen Thorpe**, entering hospice care
- **Kensey Colon**, diagnosed with a low-grade cancer and will begin chemo May 11
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, diagnosed with bone degeneration in her spine, as well as arthritis, which is causing the pain she's been experiencing
- **Bruce Strom**, recuperating following surgery last Wednesday on a dislocated hip
- **Ann Marie Strom**, recuperating following a procedure this past Friday related to melanoma
- **Steve Brown**, home again after being hospitalized with an infection
- Rosemary Slaughter's cousin's son, **Doug**, diagnosed with stage 1 cancer
- Joline and Steve Paska's friend **Maggie**, now in remission
- **Shirley Finney**, Janice Finney's mom, on hospice care
- **Betty Boyd**, Jon's mother, on hospice care
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care
- **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 on a decision regarding her release from the detention center she has been in for the past many months
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still struggling with sciatica pain
- **Darlene Johnson**, recovering from a badly broken wrist
- **Melanie Jones**, for strength to live with chronic pain
- **Zeynab and her two sons**, awaiting word about their asylum case
- **Anna and Peter Kim**, missionaries in Taiwan, request prayer 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

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, May 4

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
11:30 am	NPCCP Board Meeting (Parlors)
3:45 pm	Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
4 pm	Tutoring (Parlors)
4:30 pm	North Park University Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:30 pm	Peterson Organ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, May 5

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

Wednesday, May 6

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)
	Last Middle-school Youth Group of the Season (Youth Room)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, May 7

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

Friday, May 8

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
4 pm	NPU Commencement Worship Service (Sanctuary, Parlors)

Saturday, May 9

8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
9 am	Come to the Table Communion Class (Parlors)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
2 pm	Neighborhood Health Event: Processing ICE with Kids and the Community (Parlors)

Sunday, May 10

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)

7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

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/Chancel Handbell Choir, Director
sparnin@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