



MAY 24, 2026
+ PENTECOST SUNDAY +

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PRELUDE

Sarabande
Nino Rota
Ayden Hunt, Harp

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski



CHORAL INTROIT

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Hymnal Selection 283
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 286

Let Every Christian Pray

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Ebner
from Psalm 104

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things are innumerable there,
living things both great and small.

**When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—

**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to God while I have breath.**

May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

A Reading for Pentecost Sunday

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Barbara Hunt, Reader

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

CHORAL ANTHEM

Come Down, O Love Divine

Hymnal Selection 285, arr. Thomas Keesecker

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE

Gaius Berg

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Be the Center

Michael Frye

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

PRAYER 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

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Frederick Cook Atkinson

Brian Ward, Piano

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Presentation

* CLOSING HYMN 294

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

All sing verses 1, 3, 5; women only on verse 2; men only on verse 4

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, O Creator Spirit, Come

Hymnal Selection 281, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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.*

Let Every Christian Pray

1 Let ev - 'ry Chris - tian pray, this day and ev - 'ry
 2 The Spir - it brought to birth the Church of Christ on
 3 Al - ways the Spir - it strove to teach her how to
 4 On - ly the Spir - it's pow'r can fit us for this

day: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come! Was
 earth to seek and save the lost: and
 love: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come; age
 hour: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come; in -

not the Church we love com - mis - sioned from a -
 nev - er has with - drawn, since that tre - men - dous
 af - ter age, a - new she proved the Gos - pel
 struct, in - spire, u - nite, and make us see the

bove? Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come!
 dawn, those gifts at Pen - te - cost.
 true: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come!
 light: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come! A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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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

Be the Center

Michael Frye

1999 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) (Admin. by Integrity Music)



Je - sus, be the cen - ter. Be my source,
Je - sus, be the cen - ter. Be my hope,
Je - sus, be my vi - sion. Be my path,

1.



be my light, Je - sus.
be my song, Je - sus.
be my guide, Je - sus.



Be the fire in my heart. Be the wind in these sails.



Be the rea - son that I live Je - sus



Je - sus

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all crea-tures

here be-low; praise him a-bove ye heav'n-ly host;

praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

WHY DO WE PASS THE PEACE EACH WEEK?

Whether you're new to this congregation or have been here since you were a wee one, you may have wondered why we pass the peace each week. It's not a time to greet or catch up with one another (those things are for coffee hour); instead, it's a time to recognize the peace that Jesus offers to each of us and then extend that peace to one another. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." It's the peace of new life, the Holy Spirit, and of Jesus' presence among us. In sharing Christ's peace with one another each week, we are seeking reconciliation, recognizing Christ in our neighbors around us, and welcoming Jesus' presence with us, around us, and through us.

294 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart,
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Did you not bid us love you, God and King,
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

free it from sin, through all its puls - es move.
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 love you with all our heart and strength and mind?
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - p'ning skies,
 I see your cross — there teach my heart to cling,
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heav'n de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek you and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame. 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.



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.

Thank you to those who walked and donated to support the 6K Walk for Water! Around the world, 14,337 people participated, raising \$1,652,636. Members and friends of NPCC donated \$1,125!

The church office will be closed tomorrow, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

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 St. Louis and Bryn Mawr. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details. All are welcome; no need to RSVP!

The final meeting of the year for the North Park Readers will be on Tuesday, May 26, at 7 pm. We will meet at Tre Kronor and will discuss *An American Summer* by Alex Kotlowitz. If you have any questions please contact Helen Arkema at helen.arkema@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Come hear an organ recital! 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!

All are invited to join us for outdoor worship (weather permitting) at 10:30 am on Sunday, June 7, followed by a block party! Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. If your last name begins with A-J, please bring a side dish; if it begins with K-Z, please bring a dessert (enough for yourself plus 10).

We'll have a camera set up for anyone who wishes to have their photo taken for their Realm profile. (We can do the work of uploading it for you and will also email or text the photo to you for you to keep.) In addition, we encourage you to upload your own photos to Realm so people can put faces with names. If you need assistance with this, please reach out to Ann-Marie in the church office, and she will be happy to walk you through the steps.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, May 31:**

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Vacation Bible School will take place over the week of June 8-12, and it can not happen without the help of the whole church body. Some of you will volunteer your time in one of many possible areas, some of you will pray for the kids and leaders throughout the week, and some of you will donate items needed to make the week a success. The list of needed items for this year's *What's Cookin'?* theme [can be found here](#). If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Jeanette or Pastor Libby.

If you have volunteered to help already, thank you! If you haven't volunteered, but have been considering it, please let Pastor Libby know. We can use all the help we can get, even if you can't be there the whole week. Anyone in 6th grade and older is welcome as staff. There are three dates set for volunteer meetings; please mark your calendars:

Thursday, May 28, at 7 pm OR Wednesday, June 3, at 7 pm

Please plan to attend one of these two first meetings. Only one is necessary, as they will be identical.

Sunday, June 7, at 6 pm

At this meeting all volunteers will be involved in set-up, decorating, and other last-minute preparations.

Sam Parnin and Eunji Lee invite you to share in their joy as they are married in our sanctuary on Saturday, June 20, at 11:30 am, followed by a reception in our parlors. [Please RSVP here](#). Eunji and Sam's registry [can be found here](#).

The Friendship Center is seeking passionate community members to join their Board of Directors as food insecurity rises in our communities. They 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 their mission. If interested, please contact Steve Paska at stevepsk@gmail.com.

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 August 6. It will be really fun to have them around, and they hope to get involved at NPCC. They have secured housing for the month of August, but they are still in need of a car that fits four to borrow or rent for the year. If you are willing or able to consider this request, please reach out to Pastor Libby, and she will put you in contact with the Muniz family.

As we celebrate the good work done by North Park Church Cooperative Preschool, we invite you to send in your photos and memories of the Preschool over the years. Any photos and stories you would like to share can be emailed to Ann-Marie in the church office. We will collect these to share with the church at a celebration in honor of the Preschool in the fall.

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:** As the school year has come to a close, we pray specifically for the students, staff, and faculty at North Park University and Northeastern Illinois University.
- **Rebecca Rodriguez and family**, that they would continue to grow together, love each other well, and reflect God's love wherever they go
- **Jon and Ann Boyd, Lucy and Rosie**, mourning the passing of Jon's mom, Betty Boyd, on May 16
- **family and friends of Erica Lofquist**, former youth group counselor here, who passed away May 15
- **Paula Schuetz**, anticipating major surgery on her left foot, which will require a lengthy time to heal
- **Steve Brown**, transferred to the acute rehab unit at Swedish in the hopes of building up some strength; he will likely stay until the end of this week
- **Diane Haglund**, diagnosed with severe spinal stenosis and meeting with a surgeon to determine next steps
- Zeynab's daughter, **Soofia**, released after a lengthy stay in a detention center and now home with her mom and brothers
- **Dorothy Schmidt**, hospitalized last week for an arrhythmia and still dealing with a wound that won't heal
- **Craig Johnson**, Pastor Libby's dad, struggling with side effects of chemotherapy
- **Bruce Strom**, home again after a time in Brandel Care Center for physical therapy
- **Ann Marie Strom**, continuing autoimmune infusions, as her recent biopsy revealed cancerous cells
- **Eileen Thorpe**, on hospice care
- **Shirley Finney**, Janice Finney's mother, on hospice care
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care
- Rosemary Slaughter's cousin's son, **Doug**, diagnosed with stage 1 cancer
- **Barb and John Goode**, as they adjust to life with in-home caregivers
- **Zeynab and her two sons**, awaiting word about their asylum case
- **Sheryl and Paul Noren**, missionaries to Congo, request prayers for the financial needs of those in their community; for the ability to listen well to and be attentive to the needs of those they work with; for fellow missionary Randy Bevis, who needs to get a visa to go to Bangui to work with Paul there; and that pieces will fall into place for a conference of Covenant missionaries in Africa

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day - Office Closed

- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, May 26

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, May 27

- 10 am Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
3:45 pm Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
7 pm Knit or Not (Location TBD)

Thursday, May 28

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7 pm Vacation Bible School Meeting (Parlors)

Friday, May 29

- 1 pm Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
4 pm Reed Group Piano Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, May 30

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
3 pm Reed Piano Recital (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 31 - Trinity Sunday

- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
3 pm Sam Parnin Organ Recital (Sanctuary)
7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

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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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