



**NORTH PARK  
COVENANT CHURCH**

JULY 5, 2026  
+ THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need  
arr. Tracey McKibben  
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jon Boyd and Libby Piotrowski



\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Harry Piotrowski  
based on Psalm 45:10-17

Hear, O people, incline your ear to our God;  
forget your worldly attachments and distractions.

**We will bow down to our Lord.**

Come into God's glorious presence with gladness,  
arrayed not in the wealth of this world,  
but in the beauty of holiness and grace.

**With joy and gladness we enter into worship!**

Let us proclaim God's goodness to all generations,  
for God's name will be remembered forever and ever.

**God's name will be remembered in all generations.**

**Come, let us worship our God!**

\* OPENING HYMN 34

Not unto Us, O Lord

\* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

The Peace of our 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.**

Michael Shawn Sanders, Reader

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Maria Ward

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Stretched Out My Hands

John Andrew Schreiner

Choral Ensemble, Brian Ward, Director

I stretched out my hands to my Lord,  
and to my God I raised my voice,  
and I prayed with the voice of my heart,  
and He heard my cry.

Lord, have mercy on me, for I am a sinner.

Alleluia.

His word came to me with His answer.

With His answer, His word came to me.

He gave rest for the weary by the grace of the Lord.

Alleluia.

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

\* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

O Lord, You're Beautiful

Keith Green

Led by Anders Johnson, Samantha Johnson,  
Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Lauren Wargaski

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

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Elements

Communion Music

Think About His Love

arr. Mark Hayes

Sam Parnin, Piano

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LAMENT

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

You Are Our God

Hymnal Selection 115, arr. Oliver Richardson

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 82

O Tender, Gracious Father

\* WORDS OF SENDING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You  
Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand  
Hymnal Selection 730, arr. Roger Summers

*Please remain seated for the postlude.*

*\* 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.*

## Not unto Us, O Lord

34

1 Not un - to us, O Lord, on - ly to thee be the glo - ry!  
 2 Thine were the sow - ers and thine was the seed they were sow - ing,  
 3 Thine was the pil - lar of cloud and of fire that didst guide us,  
 4 Not un - to us, O Lord, on - ly to thee be the glo - ry!

Thy name a - lone is the theme of our song and our sto - ry.  
 thine was the rain and the sun - shine, the har - vest, the grow - ing.  
 thine was the hand, in the shad - ow of which thou didst hide us.  
 Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Grace tells a won - der - ful sto - ry.

Thy name we praise! Great is thy won - der - ful grace!  
 All is of thee, bless - ing so full and so free,  
 We too are thine, safe in that shel - ter di - vine,  
 Thou art the same! Praise to thy glo - ri - ous name!

Great - ly we love and a - dore thee.  
 mer - cy and grace o - ver - flow - ing.  
 e - vil can nev - er be - tide us.  
 We shall for - ev - er a - dore thee. A - men.

WORDS: Based on Psalm 115:1, Hjalmar Sundquist, 1869-1949, alt.,  
 © 1950, 1996 Covenant Publications  
 MUSIC: Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665

14.14.4.7.8.  
 LOBE DEN HERREN

# O Lord, You're Beautiful

Keith Green

1980 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)  
Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)



O Lord, You're beau - ti - ful. Your  
(O) Lord, my faith is small and  
(O) Lord, please light the fire that



face is all I seek, and when Your eyes are  
I need a touch from You. Your book of books lies  
once burned bright and clear Re - place the lamp of



on this child Your grace a - bounds to me. O  
un - dis - turbed and the prayers from me too  
my first love that burns with ho - ly



I want to take Your word and shine it all a - round but first help me  
few.  
fear.



just to live it Lord. And when I'm do - ing well, help me to



ne-ver seek the crown for my re - ward is giv - ing glo - ry to You O

## A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LAMENT

For the gifts of this table, O God, we give you thanks. This table that you invite us to is a foretaste of your glory. Through Christ, and with all your saints, we offer ourselves to your service.

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to stand with your world, for your glory and for every neighbors' good.**

Almighty, omnipotent God, as our country celebrates its 250th birthday this weekend, we pause to both celebrate the values and beliefs we aspire to and lament the ways in which we have failed to truly live into those values and beliefs. Gracious and merciful One, where do we begin?

You call us to do justice,  
**and we explain that justice is complicated.**

You ask us to love mercy,  
**and we counter that a show of strength is necessary.**

You invite us to walk humbly with you,  
**and we struggle to recognize you in our neighbors, in the dispossessed,  
in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts.**

We confess that we have failed to summon the courage and compassion required by your call.

**We have treated hospitality as an option and kinship as a choice, instead of as the center of our life together.**

We have claimed your name yet rejected your way.

**Forgive us, we pray.**

We are grateful, O God, for the freedom we share and the security we know. Let the blessing we know as freedom be for us more than a privilege to protect, but a gift to share. Bless all who aspire to your liberty. Bless all who work for your justice. Bless all who open doors of sympathy. Bless all who resist evil, love goodness, and do your work.

And for places of concern, beyond our borders, where opportunity seems elusive and life is hard or violence rules, we pray. For civil unrest in so many countries in Africa, for Ukraine, for war in the Middle East, for territorial disputes around the globe, and for the people in northern Venezuela. In all these places, and more, embolden those who would shape change in positive directions, and where and when you can use us, O God, we pray that we might be ready to go and to act!

And so, we pray:

**As the sound of fireworks now is stilled  
and the hazy smoke is cleared;  
when the parades are over  
and the revelers and picnickers are safely back at home;  
when the store clerks and electricians, police officers and doctors,  
politicians, and office assistants return to work,  
then the work of freedom begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among brothers and sisters,  
to make peace in every land.  
Amen.**

## Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a series of chords and single notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The upper staff features a mix of chords and moving lines. The lower staff provides a steady harmonic support with chords and single notes.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The upper staff has a more active melodic line with eighth notes and sixteenth notes. The lower staff provides a final harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes, ending with a double bar line.

## O Tender, Gracious Father

1 O ten - der, gra - cious Fa - ther, who watch - es o - ver me,  
 2 With cloth - ing, food, and shel - ter, what - e'er my needs im - ply,  
 3 In child - like, true o - be - dience help me to do the right;  
 4 Your heart is all com - pas - sion, with love it o - ver - flows;

how shall I ev - er praise you, for love and grace so free.  
 for soul and bod - y ev - er, you do in grace sup - ply.  
 may pre - cious be your stat - utes, your yoke be pleas - ant, light!  
 what - ev - er ills con - front me, you know them and my woes.

You lead me on with cau - tion through ev - 'ry se - cret snare,  
 O Lord, I soon would per - ish if these you would ex - clude;  
 And when some hard - ship threat - ens, a dan - ger fright - ens me,  
 You do not sleep or slum - ber by night or through the days;

be - neath your wings a ref - uge I find in my de - spair.  
 O could I love you bet - ter and prove my grat - i - tude.  
 may you in all my tri - als my pres - ent help - er be.  
 your arms, al - might - y Fa - ther, en - fold all time and space. 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](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.



**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.

**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 Sawyer and Catalpa. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at [rjonberber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjonberber@sbcglobal.net) for more details. All are welcome; no need to RSVP!

### **Lectionary texts for Sunday, July 12:**

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalms 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Neighborhood Nights start tonight!** Each Sunday in July, from 6-7:30 pm, we invite you to bring a friend and neighbor to the south garden for fellowship with activities and treats for all. Bring your own picnic dinner and a blanket or chairs to sit on, or just come to hang out!

**A Call for Preschool Pictures and Memories:** As we celebrate the good work done by North Park Church Cooperative Preschool, we invite you to send in photos and memories of the Preschool over the years. Any photos and stories you share can be emailed to Ann-Marie in the church office. We will collect these to share 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!

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## *for your prayers this week*

- **Community prayer:** the owners, employees, and patrons of the restaurants and businesses in our community
- **the Engebretson/Meyer family, Weslee Johnson, and Nilsa Nordlund,** heading to camp this week
- **the people of Venezuela,** as they have experienced two earthquakes back to back this past week
- **Rich Blazyk,** Joel Piotrowski's brother-in-law, who is hospitalized with a broken hip and an infection requiring IV antibiotics
- Michael Shawn Sanders' dad, **Wilburn, and his wife, Trudy,** as Wilburn's health has been declining in the last few months and Trudy is his main caregiver
- **Jan Huber, Danielle Ng, and Noah Brown and family,** mourning the passing of husband and father Steve Brown on June 21
- **Janice Finney and family,** mourning the passing of her mother, Shirley, on June 25
- **Pastor Libby and family,** as they care for her parents, Chris and Craig, struggling with health difficulties
- **Diane Haglund,** who will undergo a series of shots over the next few months in preparation for back surgery in October
- **Eileen Thorpe,** on hospice and experiencing ongoing issues with her legs
- **Sandy Edstrom,** still struggling with sciatica pain
- **Kensey Colon,** as she goes through chemotherapy
- **Paula Schuetz,** anticipating major surgery on her left foot on August 17
- **Sara Gortner,** Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care
- Craig Wickstrom, Global Personnel to Congo, requests prayers for **the people of Congo,** as they fear the spread of Ebola

## The Church Calendar This Week

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*The calendar is available at [www.npcovenant.org/calendar](http://www.npcovenant.org/calendar) and is updated as changes occur.*

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### *Monday, July 6*

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

### *Tuesday, July 7*

- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 6:30 pm Chicago Dogs Game (Impact Field, Rosemont, IL)

### *Wednesday, July 8*

- 6 pm Youth Ministry Breakfast and Board Games (Parlors)
- 7 pm Knit or Not (Location TBD)

### *Saturday, July 11*

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

### *Sunday, July 12*

- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
- 6 pm Neighborhood Night (South Garden)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

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## North Park Covenant Church Staff

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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, ext. 535

Brian Ward  
Music Ministry Coordinator/Chancel Choir Director  
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Sam Parnin  
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Christian Schuetz  
Custodian  
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

Ann-Marie Olson  
Church Administrator  
aolson@npcovenant.org, ext. 500

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## The Friendship Center

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Nadia Jiménez  
Executive Director  
info@friendshipcenterchicago.org

(773) 907-6338

2711 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60625  
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

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## Missionaries We Support

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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

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## Welcome Statement

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*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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