



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

JULY 19, 2026
+ THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Seek Ye First
arr. Tom Keene
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeanette Mottl



* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!

I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—

but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

You Go Before Me
Brian and Maria Ward
Led by Jeanette Mottl, Sam Parnin,
Brian Ward, and Maria Ward

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the 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.

Rosie Boyd, Reader
Genesis 28:10-19a
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Libby Piotrowski

SPECIAL MUSIC

Same God

Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Pat Barrett, Steven Furtick

Brandon Lake Music; Maverick City Publishing Worldwide;

Capitol CMG Genesis; Housefires Sounds;

Music by Elevation Worship Publishing; Bethel Music Publishing

Jeanette Mottl, Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Maria Ward

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Terence Z. Gadsden

HYMN OF RESPONSE 428

He's Ever Over Me

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

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

arr. Cindy Berry

Sam Parnin, Piano

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 416

Great Hills May Tremble

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Hymnal Selection 42, arr. Lloyd Larson

Please remain seated for the postlude.

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

You Go Before Me

Psalms 139: 1-2, 5-8, 12, 15-18

Brian and Maria Ward

Allegro (♩ = 120)



Oh Lord, you've ex-am-ined my heart
I can ne-ver es-cape from your spirit



You know e-very-thing a-bout me when I sit or I stand
I can ne-ver get a-way from your pre-sence



You know my thoughts e-ven when I'm far a-way
if I go up to hea-ven, You are there.



The night will shine like the day You are there.
If I go down to the grave You are there.



You go be-fore me and fol-low me You place Your

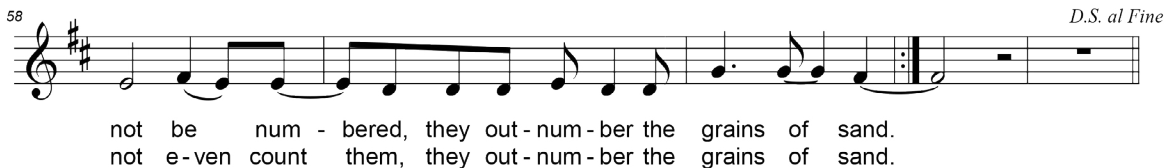
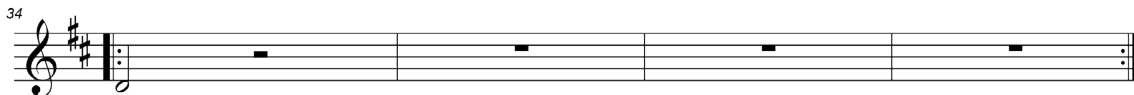


hand of bles-sing on my head such know-ledge is too won-der-ful for me

1.



too great to un-der-stand



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

He's Ever over Me

I will lift my eyes to the hills and their Cre-a-tor who

made all heav-en and earth. For he

watch-es me, will not sleep, no nev-er slum-ber, he's

ev-er o-ver me. As I

GUIDANCE IN PILGRIMAGE

B♭ Cm B♭/D E♭2 E♭ F/A B♭ F/A

come and I go, I am safe for I know that his

Gm C7sus4 C7 E♭/F F

care is suf - fi - cient for me. Win - ter

B♭ F/A Gm7 E♭

warmth and light, and a sha - dy place in sum - mer, he's

B♭/F Cm9 F E♭/B♭ B♭

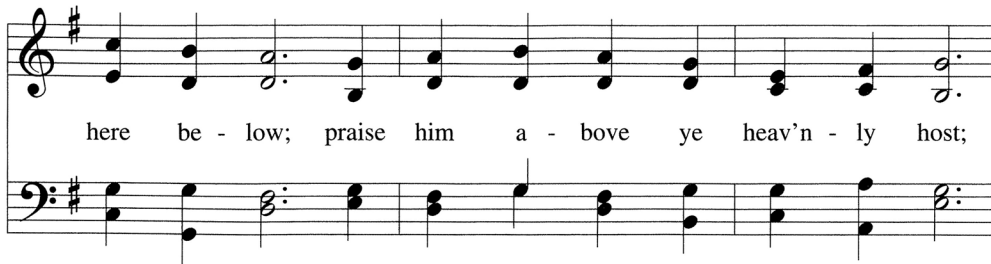
ev - er o - ver me.

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 treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature, featuring a simple harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes.



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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows a continuation of the eighth-note melody. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.



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

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a double bar line. The bass staff also concludes with a double bar line. The final notes are sustained, providing a sense of closure.

Great Hills May Tremble

416

1 Great hills may trem - ble and moun - tains may crum - ble,
 2 Though peace be shat - tered by war's ag - i - ta - tion,
 3 Strong to pre - serve us in mo - ments of dan - ger,
 4 Teach us, O Lord, your com - mand - ments to pon - der,

God's lov - ing - kind - ness is ev - er se - cure;
 though change and ten - sion give birth to great fears,
 strong when frus - tra - tion and frail - ty in - crease;
 help us to heed them wher - ev - er we roam,

peace he will give to the con - trite and hum - ble:
 God still re - mains an un - shak - en foun - da - tion,
 strong to e - quip us for lov - ing the stran - ger,
 wait - ing the day you shall call us up yon - der,

so says the Lord— his prom - ise is sure.
 strong to sup - port us through tur - bu - lent years;
 strong where our hu - man re - sourc - es may cease.
 trust - ing your prom - ise to car - ry us home.

WORDS: Based on Isaiah 54:10, sts. 1, 4, Lina Sandell, 1832-1903; sts. 2, 3, Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1931-
 tr. E. Lincoln Pearson, 1917-, © 1950, 1973, 1996 Covenant Publications

MUSIC: Anonymous

11.10.11.10.
 BERGEN MÅ VIKÅ

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.



We welcome to the pulpit today Rev. Dr. Terence Z. Gadsden. Rev. Dr. Gadsden serves as Campus Pastor and Athletic Chaplain for North Park University. A native of New Jersey, Dr. Gadsden has spent the last 23 years living and serving in the Midwest as a student pastor, hospital chaplain, educator, coach, mentor, and DJ.

Dr. Gadsden was first introduced to the Christian faith while growing up in a Baptist church in Atlantic Highlands, NJ. Prior to joining North Park University in 2016, Dr. Gadsden served on the pastoral staff at Lawndale Christian Community Church on the west side of Chicago for 12 years. During his time at Lawndale, Dr. Gadsden helped mobilize and disciple many student leaders to deepen their faith in Christ, and to become more active in their communities.

In addition to working with students, Dr. Gadsden holds a B.A. in biblical studies from Milligan College in Tennessee. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, IL, and a Doctorate of Ministry in preaching from North Park Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Angela Sangha-Gadsden, have been married for 20 years and have two daughters, Zion and Shanthi. Currently, Dr. Gadsden and his family live in Evanston, IL.

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.

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

Members and friends are invited to be a part of a Saturday-morning trash brigade, working to clean up an area of our community. They meet at 10 am each week, and this coming Saturday, you can join them at the intersection of Sawyer and Berwyn. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at rjonberber@sbcglobal.net for more details. All are welcome; no need to RSVP!

Help us Create a New Church Cookbook! Ann Boyd, our Writer in Residence, hopes to gather beloved recipes for a new church cookbook. Can you share a favorite recipe or two from you or your family? Please include:

- the recipe (including ingredients and directions);
- a few sentences that tell a story of the recipe—help us to understand how this recipe holds meaning in your life, in your family, or in the life of our church; or
- optional: an illustration of the recipe! You can sketch the ingredients, the finished product, or something else.

Please send submissions to annboyd@gmail.com with the subject line “North Park Cookbook” before October 1, 2026. Thanks! And take a peek at Ann’s writings on creativity and spirituality at annboyd.substack.com.

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

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Church Library News: Summer reads often include engaging, light-hearted, and captivating stories perfect for beach days or lounging at home. Our July display, located on a small table in the church library, features recommended fiction reads of various genres for all reading levels. There is a companion list of recommended fiction. One of Pastor Libby’s favorite books is *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which is included in the display. Books that have been recommended by other church members are also included. Stop by the library this month to select your next read.

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. Please email to me any photos or stories you’d like to share. We’ll collect these to share at a celebration of the Preschool in the fall.

Car Needed for Missionary Family: 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, and they hope to get involved at NPCC. While they have housing secured, 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.

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! [Please click here](#) to put your name down for a Sunday or two—thank you!

for your prayers this week

- **Community prayer:** the owners, employees, and patrons of the restaurants and businesses in our community
- **Amari Berg, Eleanor Berg, Vivienne Berg, and Sophia Schukas**, heading to camp this week
- **all those affected by the fires** in the Boundary Waters area in Minnesota and Canada
- Kevin and Susan Guttormsen's daughter and son-in-law, **Karyn and Tyler Weiss**, as the baby Karyn was due to deliver in August, Kolt Jeffrey, died in utero early last week
- Michael Shawn Sanders' Aunt **Maureen**, who is 80 and struggling with the effects of Alzheimer's, and his Uncle **Lee**, who is her sole caregiver
- **Ryan and Sara Wendt**, whose new church is carrying a lot of pain from the past
- **Mary Ann Ahlgren**, recuperating after surgery last Sunday to repair her hip, which was injured in a fall
- **Covenant Harbor Bible Camp**, which sustained damage in storms on July 3
- **the Lake Geneva, WI, community**, mourning the loss of three children who died when the boat they were in capsized in a sudden storm on Geneva Lake on July 3
- Pastor Libby's mom, **Chris Johnson**, recuperating after an outpatient procedure on her back last Tuesday, and her dad, **Craig Johnson**, still struggling with health difficulties
- **Ann Marie Strom**, awaiting a meeting with a rheumatologist, as she has developed some joint pain related to the immunotherapy infusions she is receiving
- **Reggie**, a tenant in Rosemary Slaughter's building, recuperating after open heart surgery
- **Rich Blazyk**, Joel Piotrowski's brother-in-law, moved to a nursing home for long-term care
- **Jan Huber and family**, mourning the passing of Steve Brown on June 21
- **Janice Finney and family**, mourning the passing of her mother, Shirley, on June 25
- **Diane Haglund**, undergoing 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**, undergoing chemotherapy treatments
- **Paula Schuetz**, to have major surgery on her left foot on August 17
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, July 20

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 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, July 21

- | | |
|------|---|
| 6 pm | Cudahy Basketball (Gym) |
| 7 pm | Executive Council Meeting (Large Conference Room) |

Wednesday, July 22

- | | |
|------|--|
| 7 pm | Knit or Not (Location TBD) |
| | Youth Ministry Worship Night (Youth Room near the Gym) |

Saturday, July 25

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 8 am | Geezerball (Gym) |
| 10:15 am | Cudahy Basketball (Gym) |
| 5 pm | Glazier Party - Private (Parlors) |

Sunday, July 26

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10:30 am | Worship (Sanctuary) |
| 1:30 pm | Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors) |
| 6 pm | Neighborhood Night (Sidewalk along Christiana) |
| 7 pm | AA Meeting (Parlors) |

North Park Covenant Church Staff

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Jeanette Mottl
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Brian Ward
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Sam Parnin
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Christian Schuetz
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The Friendship Center

Nadia Jiménez
Executive Director
info@friendshipcenterchicago.org

(773) 907-6338

2711 West Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625
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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