



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

JULY 26, 2026
+ THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!
Hymnal Selection 350, arr. Priscilla J. King
Sam Parnin, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



* CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 105:1-11

Come, let's give thanks to God together,
for our God is a promise-keeping God!
Let's sing songs and make music together,
for our God is a promise-keeping God!
Let's watch for signs of God's presence among us,
for our God is a promise-keeping God!
Let's remember all the wonderful things God has done,
for our God is a promise-keeping God!
Amen and Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 38

Worthy of Worship

* 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.

Alyssa Anderson, Reader

Genesis 29:15-28

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

God Is Love

Chris Renzema, Christian Hale, Patrick Mayberry, Seth Condrey

2020 Centricity Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Music at North Point (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Jeanette Mottl, Brian Ward, Lauren Wargaski, and Paul Wargaski

How great this love, oh, it's moving all my mountains.
It's perfect love, it's casting out my fear.
How great this love, oh, it welcomes me like family.
And anywhere I go, it meets me there.

Refrain:

'Cause He is good, and He is God.
What I earned, it's not what I got.
And He is just yet also kind.
What I deserve, it's not what I find.
What more could I say about Him?
My God is love.

How great this love, oh, it's faithful through my failures.
It's trusting love, it's with me 'til the end.
How great this love, oh, it's closer than a brother.
This is love, He died so I could live.

Refrain

And I know my God is love. I know my God is love.
And this is enough to know, my God is love.
I know my God is love.

Refrain

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

* HYMN OF RESPONSE 420

Teach Me Your Way, O Lord

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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Hymnal Selection 407, William P. Bradbury
Brian Ward, Piano

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

He Is
David Crowder, Hank Bentley, Jeff Pardo
Led by Jeanette Mottl, Brian Ward,
Lauren Wargaski, and Paul Wargaski

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Join All Glorious Names
Hymnal Selection 314, arr.
Michael Wilson

Please remain seated for the postlude.

** Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

Prayer is offered in the coffee lounge after the service.

Worthy of Worship

38

1 Wor - thy of wor - ship, wor - thy of praise, wor - thy of hon - or and
 2 Wor - thy of rev - 'rence, wor - thy of fear, wor - thy of love and de -
 3 Al - might - y Fa - ther, Mas - ter and Lord, King of all kings and Re -

glo - ry; wor - thy of all the glad songs we can sing, wor - thy of
 vo - tion; wor - thy of bow - ing and bend - ing of knees, wor - thy of
 deem - er, Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Com - fort - er, Friend, Sav - ior, and

Refrain

all of the off - 'rings we bring.
 all this and add - ed to these— You are wor - thy, Fa - ther, Cre -
 source of our life with - out end.

at - or. You are wor - thy, Sav - ior, Sus - tain - er. You are wor - thy,

wor - thy and won - der - ful; wor - thy of wor - ship and praise.

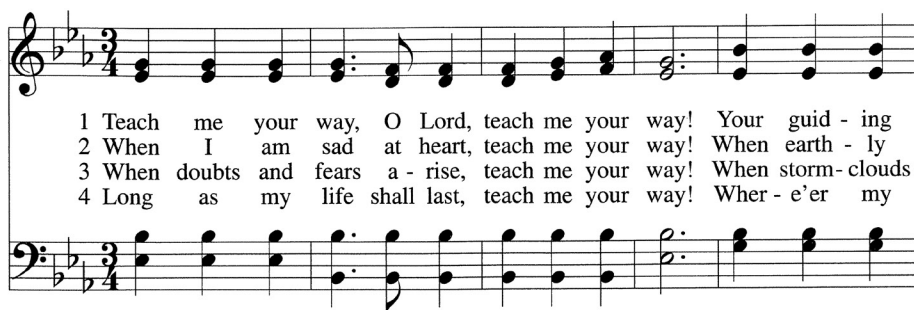
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

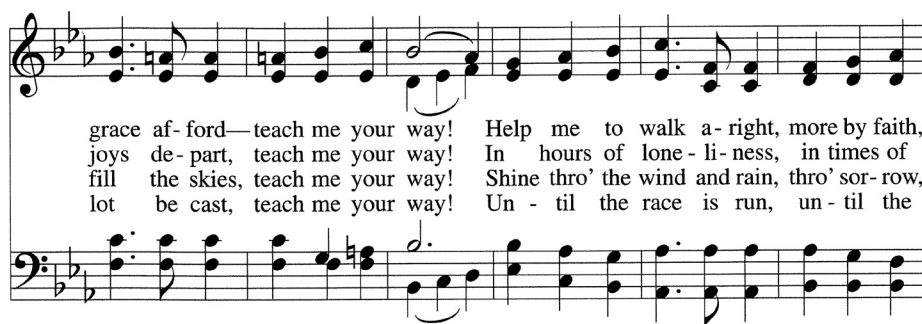
Traditional

Teach Me Your Way, O Lord

420



1 Teach me your way, O Lord, teach me your way! Your guid - ing
 2 When I am sad at heart, teach me your way! When earth - ly
 3 When doubts and fears a - rise, teach me your way! When storm-clouds
 4 Long as my life shall last, teach me your way! Wher - e'er my



grace af-ford—teach me your way! Help me to walk a - right, more by faith,
 joys de-part, teach me your way! In hours of lone - li-ness, in times of
 fill the skies, teach me your way! Shine thro' the wind and rain, thro' sor-row,
 lot be cast, teach me your way! Un - til the race is run, un - til the



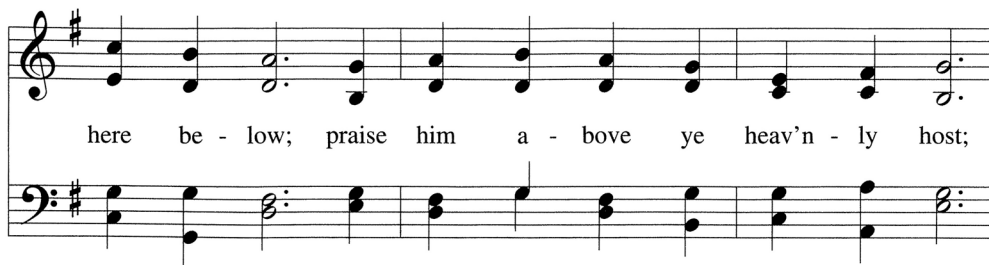
less by sight; lead me with heav'n-ly light—teach me your way!
 dire dis-tress, in fail-ure or suc-cess, teach me your way!
 grief, and pain; make now my path-way plain—teach me your way!
 jour-ney's done, un - til the crown is won, teach me your way! A - men.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



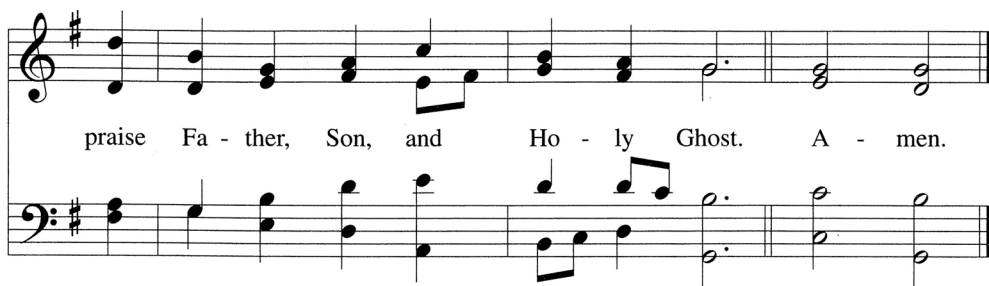
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with 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 has a more varied melodic line with some dotted notes, and the bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.



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

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a solid harmonic base. The lyrics are spread across the two staves.

He Is

David Crowder, Hank Bentley, Jeff Pardo

2021 BrentHood Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Inot Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Meaux Mercy (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Eb Ab Eb Ab Eb
 If you're trou- bled Hea- vy heart- ed Come to Je- sus and
 If you're wan- dering in the dark- ness Come to Je- sus and

Bb sus Bb Eb Ab Eb
 find your peace. If you're run- down Em-pty-hand- ed
 find your way. If you want free- dom Need for- give- ness

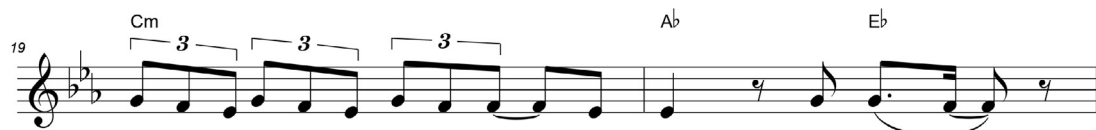
Ab Eb Bb sus Bb Ab Eb
 Come to Je- sus and find your strength He is hope for the hope- less
 Come to Je- sus and find His grace

Cm7 Bb sus Ab Eb Cm7 Bb sus Eb
 rest for the wear- y help for the hurt- ing He is. He is

Ab Eb Cm7 Bb sus Ab Bb sus Eb Ab Eb
 mend- ing the brok- en bear- ing the bur- dens all that you're need- ing He is.



Com-for-ter, Coun-se-lor, Prince of Peace Au-thor and Mak-er of ev-ery-thing De -



fen-der, De-li - ver - er, King of Kings He is. He is



Help-er and Heal-er fore-ev - er-more Sa-vior and Shek-ter through ev-ery storm My



re-fuge, Re-deem-er and Lord of Lords He is He is



Child of Hea-ven and Son of Man Pro - vi - der, Pro-tec - tor the great I AM



Al - pha, O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End He is. He is



hope for the hope-less rest for the wear - y help for the hurt-ing He

32 Cm7 B $\flat$ sus E $\flat$ A $\flat$ E $\flat$ Cm7 B $\flat$ sus

is. He is men-ding the brok-en bear-ing the bur-dens

35 A $\flat$ B $\flat$ sus E $\flat$ A $\flat$ E $\flat$ A $\flat$ B $\flat$ sus E $\flat$ A $\flat$ E $\flat$

all that you're need-ing He is. All that you're need-ing He is.

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.



Special Benevolence Request: Eugenio Restrepo, regional global personnel coordinator for Latin America, recently underwent a minor medical procedure, and he and Pia are facing higher-than-expected costs. We will receive a special offering today to send to the Restrepos for this purpose. Thank you for considering a donation.

Join us in welcoming back Pastor Jeff! All are invited to the parlors on the lower level after worship to welcome back Pastor Jeff after his sabbatical. Come on down and have a treat!

Staff away: Pastor Libby will be away starting tonight through August 2. If you are in need of pastoral care in her absence, please reach out to Pastor Jeff.

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.

One more Neighborhood Night! Join us tonight from 6-7:30 pm on the sidewalk along Christiana. Bring a friend and neighbor 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 Spaulding 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!

NPCC's New Little Free Library! We have a new Little Free Library near the east entry to the south garden! Please feel free to bring a book to add or borrow one from the library. Thanks to James Edstrom for his work to bring this idea to life!

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:

1. the recipe (including ingredients and directions);
2. 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
3. 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, August 2:**

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Friendship Center to be Rebranded: In December 2025, The Friendship Center was awarded the [Good Egg Grant](#) from [Design B&B](#) to update their branding during 2026. Throughout the process, the Design B&B team has had interviews with stakeholders, held focus groups, and conducted market research about The Friendship Center to develop two new possible branding concepts.

They are eager to share the concepts with you and ask for your honest and open feedback to help the Design B&B team make further changes to showcase who The Friendship Center is to its community.

[Please click here](#) to see the images up close, and to take the survey. Thank you for your input!

Church Library News: Summer reads often include engaging, light-hearted, and captivating stories perfect for beach days or lounging. Our July display, located on a small table in the church library, features recommended fiction reads of various genres such as mystery, fantasy, historical fiction, and the classics 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 in the display. For more fiction selections peruse the books in Section 1. Stop by the library this month to select your next read.

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. 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.

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
- **Cassandra Estrada**, heading to camp this week
- Kevin and Susan Guttormsen's daughter and son-in-law, **Karyn and Tyler Weiss**, mourning the loss of Kolt Jeffrey, whom Karyn was due to deliver in early August
- **Paula Schuetz**, to have major surgery on her left foot on August 17
- Rosemary's cousin **Larry**, hospitalized and undergoing tests
- Libby's mom, **Chris Johnson**, awaiting results from an MRI early last week, following increased pain after surgery; Libby's dad, **Craig**, has been moved to rehab
- 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 to repair her hip, which was injured in a fall
- **Covenant Harbor Bible Camp**, which sustained damage in storms on July 3
- **Ann Marie Strom**, to meet with another specialist and have more tests in the hopes of discerning what's going on
- **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
- **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
- **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 27

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 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 28

- | | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 6 pm | Cudahy Basketball (Gym) |
|------|-------------------------|

Wednesday, July 29

- | | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 7 pm | Knit or Not (Location TBD) |
|------|----------------------------|

Saturday, August 1

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

Sunday, August 2

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 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, ext. 535

Brian Ward
Music Ministry Coordinator/Chancel Choir Director
bward@npcovenant.org

Sam Parnin
Organist/Chancel Handbell Choir Director
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Christian Schuetz
Custodian
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Ann-Marie Olson
Church Administrator
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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

Global Personnel 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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