



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

AUGUST 9, 2026
+ THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

AUGUST 9, 2026
+ THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus
arr. Joel Raney
Sam Parnin and Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moment for Mission: A Gather Annual Meeting Report

Jeanette Mottl and Libby Piotrowski
Our NPCC Delegates



* CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Thom Shuman and
based on today's texts

Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:

here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:

here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:

here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out, "God, save us!" in every situation.

* OPENING HYMN 511

Gather Us In

* 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.

Lauren Wargaski, Reader

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
arr. Tedd Smith, Don Hustad, Brian Ward
Annalisa Ward, Oboe
Brian Ward, Piano
Erik Ward, French Horn

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

God So Loved

Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash,
Martin Cash, Scott Cash

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

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

Gavotte in F Major
Giovanni Battista Martini
arr. Mike Magatagan

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 77

God of Our Life

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord
arr. Joel Raney

** Please remain seated for the postlude.*

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

Prayer is offered in the coffee lounge, just off the parlors, after the service.

Gather Us In

In unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble staff and a bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 6/8. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

System 1:

Chords: D, A/C#, C, G, Gm/Bb, Dm

Lyrics:
 1 Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, shad-ows of doubt are
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry; we are the old, who
 3 Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4 Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

System 2:

Chords: C, G, D, A/C#, C, G

Lyrics:
 van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

System 3:

Chords: Gm/Bb, Dm, C, Am7, D

Lyrics:
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

GATHERING

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath - er us in; our
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty; gath - er us in the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion; give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath - er us in and

D/F# G A D A/C# C G

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Bb/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

God So Loved

Andrew Berghold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash

2019 Angie Feel Good Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Bay19 (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Scott Cash Publishing Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
We The Kingdom Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)



Come all you wea - ry Come all you thir - sty Come to the well that
Come all you sin - ners Come find His mer - cy Come to the ta - ble; He



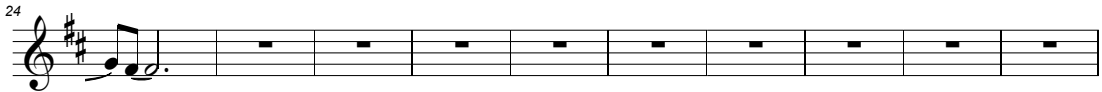
ne-ver runs dry. Drink of the wa - ter, come and thirst no more.
will sat - is - fy. Taste of His good-ness, find what you're look-ing for.



For God so loved the world that He gave us His



one and on - ly Son to save us; who - e - ver be-lieves in Him will live for-ev-



- er



Bring all your fail-ures, Bring your ad-dic-tions, Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.

38

Je-sus is wait-ing there with o - pen arms. For

42

God so loved the world that He gave us His one and on - ly Son to save us; who -

46

e - ver be-lieves in Him will live for-ev - er. The

50

pow'r of hell for - ev-er de-feat-ed. Now it is well, I'm walk-ing in free-dom for

54

God so loved, God so loved the world. Praise

58

God, Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow. Praise Him, Praise

63

Him for the won-ders of His love. Praise God, Praise God from

68 

73 

77 
one and on - ly Son to save us; who - ev - er be - lieves in Him will live for-ev -

81

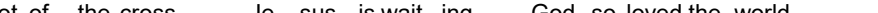


- er. The pow'r of hell for - ev - er de-feat-ed. Now

85 

89

94



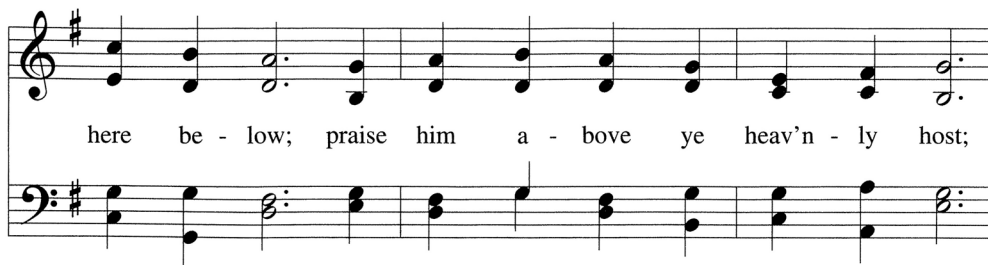
foot of the cross. Je - sus is wait - ing. God so loved the world.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



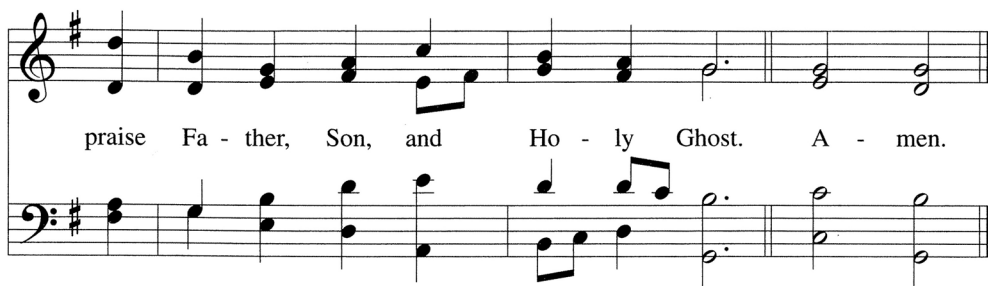
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures

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 dotted half note followed by eighth notes, and the bass staff features a mix of chords and moving lines.

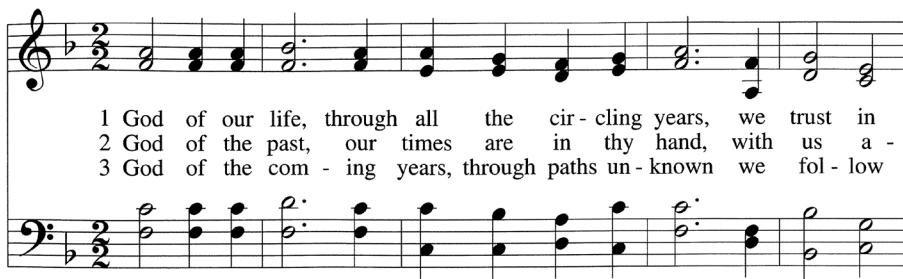


praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a solid harmonic base. The piece ends with a double bar line.

God of Our Life

77



1 God of our life, through all the cir - cing years, we trust in
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand, with us a -
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low



thee; in all the past through all our hopes and fears, thy
 bide. Lead us by faith to hope's true prom - ised land; be
 thee; when we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; our



hand we see. With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the
 thou our guide. With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as
 ref - uge be. Be thou for us in life our dai - ly



veil, we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 light, and faith's fair vi - sion, chang - es in - to sight.
 bread, our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

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.

Staff Away: Pastor Jeff will return to the office on Tuesday, August 11. Ann-Marie will return to the office on Monday, August 17.

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

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 you find there. Thanks to James Edstrom for his work to bring this idea to life!

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!

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.

Ann has already received several submissions including recipes, poetry, a brief story, and a chart! We're loving all the variety. Keep the submissions coming! 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 16:**

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

Housing Needed: The son of a friend of the congregation has been accepted to Northeastern to study computer science this fall. He is a transfer student, needing two years to finish a bachelor's degree. His acceptance came late, so on-campus housing will not be possible and he needs a place to live for the fall semester. He's 27, pleasant to be around, and doesn't smoke. Do you know of a place in the neighborhood that might be available? Let Pastor Jeff know (253-509-8027) if you do, and he'll put you in touch.

Women of the church are invited to attend a Bible study focusing on Genesis, chapter 1 through 22, starting in September and going through May. This Bible study meets at Church of Christ Presbyterian (5845 N Spaulding Ave) on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30 am, and children's classes are available. Details can be found at chicagometro.cbclass.org. If you're interested or if you have questions, please reach out to Martha Berg (773-501-8291) or Valerie Sanchez Lucco (734-834-7726).

Join the Swedish-American Museum 50th-Anniversary Celebration: 2026 is the 50th-anniversary year for the Swedish-American Museum, and on Saturday, August 15, they'll be holding a ['70s night Retro Party](#)! This 21-and-older event will be held at the museum from 6-10 pm. If you're unable to attend but still wish to support the museum, you can [become a member](#)!

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 Ann-Marie in the church office any photos or stories you'd like to share. We'll collect these to share at a celebration 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! [Please click here](#) to put your name down for a Sunday or two—thank you!

for your prayers this week

- **Community prayer:** the Hollywood-North Park Community Association and the North Park and Albany Park Mutual Aid groups and the ways they are actively serving our community
- Pastor Libby's dad, **Craig Johnson**, on hospice care; and her mom, **Chris**, who has two more compression fractures in her back
- **Paula Schuetz**, to have major surgery on her left ankle and foot on August 17
- **Doug Wiley**, Rosemary Slaughter's cousin's son, age 50, in the late stages of cancer
- **Eugenio Restrepo**, regional global personnel coordinator for Latin America, recuperating well following a medical procedure
- **family and friends of Bill Hartley**, former member here who passed away July 15 in Seattle
- 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
- Michael Shawn Sanders' Aunt **Maureen**, struggling with the effects of Alzheimer's, and her husband, **Lee**, who is her sole caregiver
- **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, August 10

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, August 11

12 pm	Vida Plena Art Camp (Parlors, Junior Chapel)
6 pm	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, August 12

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

Saturday, August 15

9 am	Valencia Quinceañera (Sanctuary)
10:30 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, August 16

10:30 am	Worship (Parlors)
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
sparnin@npcovenant.org

Christian Schuetz
Custodian
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

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

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.

5250 NORTH CHRISTIANA AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625
NPCC@NPCOVENANT.ORG • (773) 463-0055 • WWW.NPCOVENANT.ORG