



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

AUGUST 16, 2026
+ THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

I Will Call Upon the Lord
arr. Mark Hayes
Sam Parnin, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—
outsiders and insiders, old-timers and new-comers,
the young, the old, and the in-between.

**Come as you are, for this is God's house—
a house of prayer for all people—
and God welcomes each one who comes.
Amen and amen.**

* OPENING HYMN 501

Out of Need and Out of Custom

* 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.

Susan Dawson, Reader

Genesis 45:1-15

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

Is He Worthy?

Andrew Peterson

2018 Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Concord Music)

Junkbox Music (Admin. by Concord Music)

Jakedog Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

Choral Ensemble

Do you feel the world is broken? We do.
Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do.
But do you know that all the dark won't stop
the light from getting through? We do.
Do you wish that you could see it made anew? We do.

Is all creation groaning? It is.
Is a new creation coming? It is.
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? It is.
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.
Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? He does.
Does the Spirit move among us? He does.
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? He does.
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
from every people and tribe; every nation and tongue.
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.
Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all this? He is!
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is!

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Take My Life (Holiness)

Scott Underwood

Led by Kristen Hunter, 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

Amazing Grace
Hymnal Selection 341, arr. Jerry Ray

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 418

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Holy God, We Praise Your Name
Hymnal Selection 19, arr. Pamela M. Robertson
Brian Ward, Piano

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.

Out of Need and Out of Custom

In unison

1 Out of need and out of cus-tom, we have gath-ered here a-gain;
 2 Com-ing now our masks dis-play-ing, fear-ing that we shall be known,
 3 We have heard the glow-ing sto-ries of the things which God has done,

to the gath-'ring we are bring-ing love and laugh-ter, grief and pain.
 fool-ish games for-ev-er play-ing, feel-ing mean-while so a-lone.
 of his pow-er and his glo-ry, of his love in Christ his Son.

Some be-liev-ing, some re-joic-ing, some a-fraid, and some in doubt,
 Let pre-ten-sion's power be bro-ken, to be hu-man let us dare;
 God of hu-man trans-for-ma-tion, for your pres-ence now we pray,

com-ing with our ques-tions voic-ing, we would search these mat-ters out.
 let the truth in love be spo-ken, let us now the quest-ing share.
 lead us ev-er on the jour-ney as we gath-er here to-day.

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

Take My Life

Scott Underwood

1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)

F B♭ 9 C9 B♭ 9



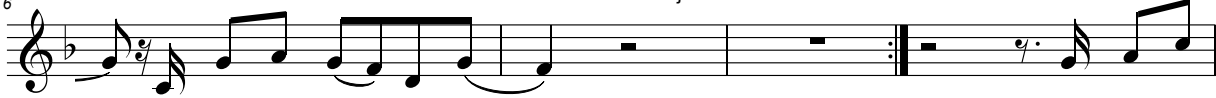
Ho - li - ness, ho - li - ness is what I long for.
Faith - ful - ness, faith - ful - ness is what I long for.
Right - eous - ness, right - eous - ness is what I long for.
Brok - en - ness, brok - en - ness is what I long for.

3 F B♭ 9 C9 F B♭ 9



Ho - li - ness is what I need. Ho - li - ness, ho - li - ness
Faith - ful - ness is what I need. Faith - ful - ness, faith - ful - ness
Right - eous - ness is what I need. Right - eous - ness, right - eous - ness
Brok - en - ness is what I need. Brok - en - ness, brok - en - ness

6 C9 B♭ 9 F A♭ maj7 1. E♭ E♭



is what You want from me. So take my
is what You want from me.
is what You want from me.
is what You want from me.

10 F B♭ 9 C9 B♭ 9 F B♭ 9 C9 B♭ 9



heart and form it and take my mind and trans - form it. and take my

14 F B♭ 9 C9 B♭ 9 F B♭ 9 C9



will and con - form it to Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

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;

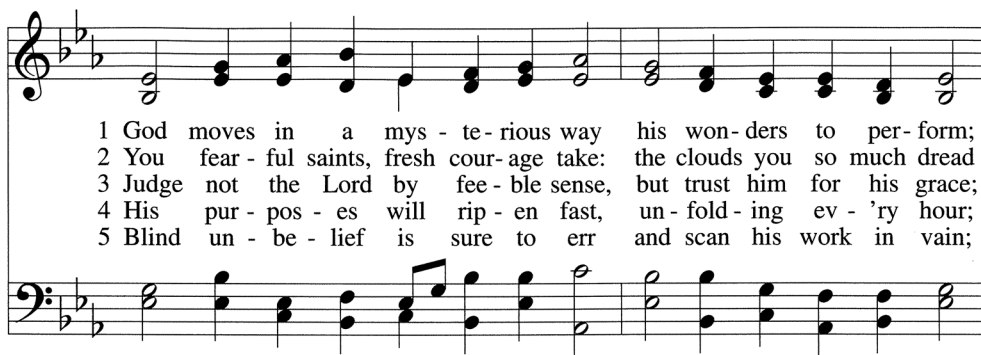
The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a melodic line with some dotted rhythms, and the bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.

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

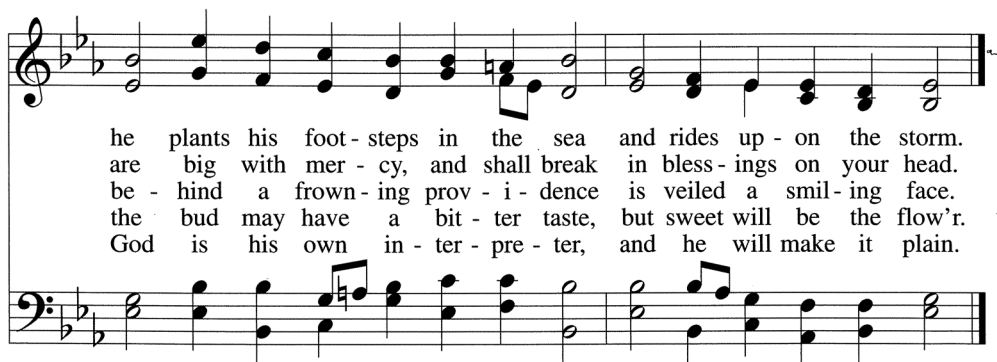
The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a concluding accompaniment. The piece ends with a double bar line.

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

418



1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way his won - ders to per - form;
2 You fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take: the clouds you so much dread
3 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but trust him for his grace;
4 His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, un - fold - ing ev - 'ry hour;
5 Blind un - be - lief is sure to err and scan his work in vain;



he plants his foot - steps in the sea and rides up - on the storm.
are big with mer - cy, and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence is veiled a smil - ing face.
the bud may have a bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.
God is his own in - ter - pre - ter, and he will make it plain.

WORDS: William Cowper, 1731-1800
MUSIC: Scottish Psalter, 1615

C.M.
DUNDEE

A lower setting and alternate harmonization can be found at 14.



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: Christian will be away from August 17 through August 30, Pastor Libby will be away from August 19 through August 28, and Pastor Jeanette will be away from August 21 to August 24.

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 Berwyn. 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 23:**

Exodus 1:8 - 2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

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**, recuperating following surgery last week on the two additional compression fractures in her back
- **Paula Schuetz**, to have major surgery on her left ankle and foot on August 17
- **Doug Wiley**, Rosemary's cousin's son, age 50, in the late stages of cancer
- **family and friends of Bill Hartley**, former member here who passed away July 15 in Seattle
- **Eugenio Restrepo**, regional global personnel coordinator for Latin America, recuperating well following a medical procedure
- 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**, who is 80 and struggling with the effects of Alzheimer's, and her husband, **Lee** (83), 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 17

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 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 18

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

Wednesday, August 19

- | | |
|------|---|
| 6 pm | Youth Ministry Picnic in the Park for Students and Families
(Irene C. Hernandez Family Picnic Grove) |
| 7 pm | Knit or Not (Coffee Lounge) |

Saturday, August 22

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 11 am | Anna Gunborg Olson Memorial Service and Inurnment (Sanctuary,
Columbarium) |
| 12 pm | Anna Gunborg Olson Memorial (Parlors) |

Sunday, August 23

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 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

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ext. 525

Libby Piotrowski
Co-pastor
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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
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Music Ministry Coordinator/Chancel Choir Director
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Sam Parnin
Organist/Chancel Handbell Choir Director
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Christian Schuetz
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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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