



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

AUGUST 23, 2026
+ THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Lord, Speak to Me
arr. Lani Smith
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Jon Boyd



* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 124
Sophie Schukas and Kajsa Ward

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away; the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the hunters;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

* OPENING HYMN (Insert)

If It Had Not Been for the Lord

* 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

Kristen Hunter, Reader
Exodus 1:8 - 2:10

New Testament Reading

Romans 12:1-8

* Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* SONG OF RESPONSE

You Are
David Crowder, Ed Cash, Hank Bentley
Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,
Samantha Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

ای پادشاه من، تو پاک و خدایی.

ای فرمانروا! تو را می‌ستایم، چرا که پاک و مقدسی.

جز آن راهی که تو مرا به پیمودنش هدایت می‌کنی، در هیچ راه دیگری گام نخواهم نهاد.

بیت دوم: همه درگاه تو جویم همه از فضل تو پویم همه توحید تو گویم که به توحید سزایی ترجمه

بیت سوم: تو حکیمی تو عظیمی تو کریمی تو رحیمی تو نماینده فضلی تو سزاوار ثنایی ترجمه

بیت چهارم: همه عزای و جلالی همه علمی و یقینی همه نوری و سروری همه جود و جزایی ترجمه

بیت پنجم: همه غیبی تو بدانی همه عیبی تو بپوشی همه بیشی تو بکاهی همه کمی تو فزایی ترجمه

بیت پایانی: لب و دندان سنایی همه توحید تو گوید مگر از آتش دوزخ بودش روی رهایی ترجمه

O Sovereign! I praise You, for You are pure and divine.

I will not walk any path except the one You guide me to walk.

I seek only Your threshold and strive only for Your grace.

I declare only Your oneness, for You alone are worthy of such unity.

You are the all-wise, the all-great, the generous, and the merciful one.

You are the embodiment of grace and the only one worthy of praise.

You are all honor and majesty, all knowledge and certainty.

You are pure light and joy, all-bounteous and the ultimate judge and rewarder.

You know all hidden things and conceal every human fault.

You reduce every excess and increase what is lacking.

Sanaei's tongue and lips speak only of Your oneness,
hoping perhaps for salvation from the abyss of darkness.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Mary Chase-Ziolek

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

Here I Am, Lord
arr. Michael Hassell
Jon Boyd, Saxophone

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

Eric Pfeiffelman

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Christ Is Risen
Matt Maher, Mia Fieldes

* SUNG BENEDICTION

The Blessing
Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick
Led by Faraz Chaudry, Soofia Eslam,
Brian Ward, Lauren Wargaski, and Paul Wargaski

POSTLUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies
arr. Dale Wood
Sam Parnin, Organ

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.*

If It Had Not Been for the Lord

131

If it had not been for the Lord on my side,
 tell me where would I be, where would I be?
 He kept my en - e - mies a - way; He let the
 be? He ne - ver left me all a - lone; He gave the
 sun shine through a clou-dy day. He rocked me in the cra-dle of his
 peace and joy I'd nev-er known. He an-swered when I knelt to real-ly
 arm when he knew I had been bat-tered and scorned;
 pray, and in vic-t'ry the Lord brought me his way; so if it

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

You Are

David Crowder, Ed Cash, and Hank Bentley

2014 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
worshipitogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
All Essential Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
Bentley Street Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)



Nev-er mo - ving
Ev - er wait - ing

like a moun - tain
for the wea - ry;

nev-er end - ing
ev - er want - ing



like the sea;
them to see

like a sun - rise
there is ran - som,

bring - ing blue skies,
there's for - give - ness



Your light is all a-round me.
Your hope is all a-round me.

Though I'm prone to leave Your



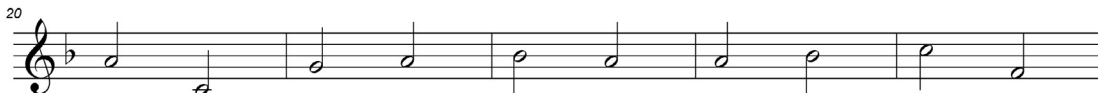
side You chase me like the tide.

You are



con - stant in my wan - der - ing.

You are bright - er



than the dark in me. You are the love that



sets me free. You are faith - ful, You are faith - ful,

30 Last time to Coda

1.

You are

[illegible]

39

A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a half note E4, and a whole note D4.

hold-ing me when the waves are crash - ing. You are

43 

[illegible]

51  Coda



Musical notation for measure 51, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a series of eighth and quarter notes with a final fermata.

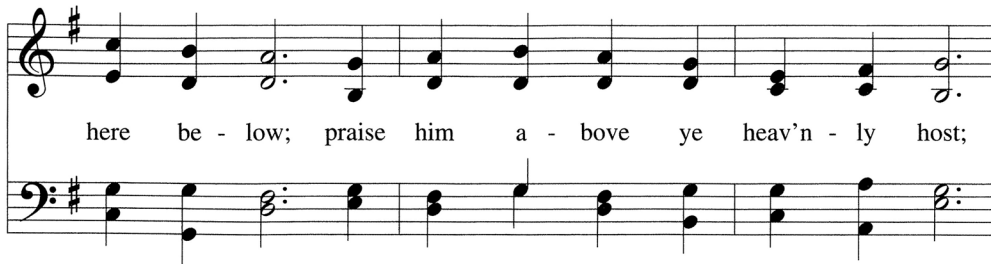
55 

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48



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

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody in the treble staff consists 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 includes a dotted half note and a quarter note, while the bass staff features a variety of chordal textures.



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

The third system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The treble staff ends with a half note and a quarter note, while the bass staff provides a solid harmonic foundation.

Christ Is Risen

Matt Maher and Mia Fieldes

2009 spiritandsong.com (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
Upside Down Under (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)



Let no
Be - neath



one caught in sin re - main in - side the lie of in - ward shame; we fix
the weight of all our sin; You bowed to none but heav - en's will. No scheme



our eyes u - pon the cross and run to Him who showed great love and bled
of hell, no scof - fer's crown. No bur - den great can hold You down. In strength



for us. Free - ly You've bled for us. Christ is
You reign. For - e - ver let Your church pro - claim.



ris - en from the dead, tramp - ling o - ver death by death. Come a - wake, come a - wake. Come and



rise up from the grave. Christ is ris - en from the dead. We are one with Him a - gain. Come a -



wake, come a - wake. Come and rise up from the grave.

27

rise up from the grave. O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your vic-to-ry?

32

O church, come stand in the light. The glo - ry of God has de-feat - ed the night.

36

O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your vic-to-ry?

40

O church, come stand in the light. Our God is not dead, He's a - live! He's alive! Christ is

44

ris - en from the dead. Tramp-ling o - ver death by death. Come a - wake, come a-wake. Come and

47

rise up from the grave. Christ is ris - en from the dead. We are one with Him a-gain. Come a -

50

wake, come a - wake. Come and rise up from the grave.

The Blessing

Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

2020 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Kari Jobe Carnes Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Writer's Roof Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

C F C

The Lord bless you, and keep you, make his face shine up-on

Gsus Am7 F9

4 you and be grac - ious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you

C Gsus C F C Am7

7 and give you peace. A -

F9 C G Am7

11 men, A men, A - men. A -

F9 C G Am7

15 men, A - men. A - men.

F9 C G Am7

19

F9 C

23 May His fa - vor be up-on you and a thou-

- sand gen - er - a - tions And your fam - ily and your chil - dren and their child-

Gl. G

25

dren and their chil - dren May His fa dren and their chil - dren May His fa-

Am7 F9

27

- vor be up-on you and a thou - sand gen-er-a-tions and your fam-

C G

29

- ily and your chil - dren and their chil - dren and their chil - dren May His pre-

Am7 F9

31

- sence go before you and be-hind you and be-side you all a-round

C G

33

you and with-in you He is with you, He is with you In the mor-

Am7 F9

35

- ning, in the e - vening, in your com - ing, and your go - ing, in your weep-

C G

37

- ing and re-joic - ing, He is for you He is for you

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.

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 Christiana 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!

Fall School Supply Drive: We are once again collecting school supplies for families in need from our neighborhood elementary schools, Hibbard and Peterson. Please consider contributing by purchasing something from the list below and dropping it in one of the labeled bins in the narthex. We will collect donations through Sunday, September 27.

2-pocket folders
Elmer's glue sticks
Ticonderoga pencils
Washable Crayola markers
Crayola crayons (24-packs)
Expo low-odor fine-tip dry erase markers
Paper towels
Bottles of hand sanitizer (32-oz)
Clorox disinfectant wipes
Boxes of Kleenex tissues
Child-sized headphones

Gallon-sized ziplock bags
Quart-sized ziplock bags
Wide-ruled composition notebooks
Sticky notes (3" x 3")
Graph Paper
Notecards (3" x 5")
Single-subject spiral notebooks
Watercolor paint sets
Rulers
Pencil-top erasers

Looking Ahead to Two Special Sundays

We look forward to a fresh programmatic year beginning again soon and we invite each and every one of you into all that the church has to offer—places to be fed (literally and spiritually), places to give (of time and talent and treasure), and places to be nurtured and grow (in relationship, faith, and love).

Join us for two Special Sundays in September as we kick off a new year of ministry and fellowship

Sunday, September 13

Outdoor worship, beginning at 10:30 in our south garden (weather permitting)

Immediately followed by a block party in the street! We will enjoy a baked potato bar and ask that members and friends bring either a side or a dessert to contribute to the meal! You can choose! Invite your neighbors and friends! All are welcome!

Sunday, September 20

9:00 Hour

Coffee bar opens at 9:00.

Confirmation for students in 7th and 8th grade begins at 9:00.

Adult formation begins at 9:15.

Sunday School for children in preschool through 6th grade begins at 9:15.

10:30 Worship

Following Worship: Ministry Fair and a Special Coffee Hour

More details about the Ministry Fair will be shared in the fall issue of *The Quarterly*.

Lectionary texts for Sunday, August 30:

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Gather and Wednesday-night Activities to Resume September

16: Come to the parlors at 6 pm for dinner, followed by a time for conversation, music rehearsals, knitting, and/or middle-school youth group! The suggested donation is \$6/person or \$20/family.

Come out for a movie night! On Friday, September 18, we'll meet in the south garden at 7 pm for an all-church viewing of *The Sheep Detectives* (Rated PG, 2026)! Bring a blanket or chair to sit on, some bug spray, and a neighbor or friend to share in the fun. We

expect to start the movie around 7:30 and be done by 9:20 or so, and we'll have some popcorn and candy to share. In the case of rain, we'll move indoors to the parlors.

Sunday School for All Ages to Resume: Beginning September 20, Sunday School for all ages will resume. Keep an eye out for more information in the fall issue of *The Quarterly*!

We Invite You Into Prayer: Fall is fast approaching, so it's time for another virtual prayer vigil. This year, the vigil will take place on Saturday, September 26, from 7 am to 7 pm, with half-hour time slots. A sign-up sheet will be sent out next week.

Join us for our annual Pet Blessing! Pets and people of all kinds are invited to come to the south garden at 10 am on Saturday, September 26, for a time of blessing. We'll have coffee for humans and biscuits for dogs. Please be sure your animal is on leash or otherwise safely contained.

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.

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 at the end of September.

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
- **Lisa Applequist and family**, mourning the passing August 7 of her father, Phil Johnson
- **Pastor Libby and family**, mourning the passing August 7 of her father, Craig Johnson
- **family and friends of Rev. Jolene Bergstrom-Carlson**, former associate pastor at NPCC, now on hospice care following a massive stroke on August 13
- **Rich Blazyk**, Joel Piotrowski's brother-in-law, moved back home to begin hospice care
- **Paula Schuetz**, whose ankle surgery has been postponed until she gets further clearance from her cardiologist
- **Doug Wiley**, Rosemary Slaughter's cousin's son, age 50, in the late stages of cancer
- 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
- **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**, approaching her final chemotherapy treatment this week
- **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 24

9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
4 pm	Tutoring (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Geezerball (Gym)
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, August 25

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, August 26

7 pm	Knit or Not (Location TBD)
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Thursday, August 27

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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Friday, August 28

1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
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Saturday, August 29

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

Sunday, August 30

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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To reach both Jeff and Libby, please use copastors@npcovenant.org or ext. 510.

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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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