



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

AUGUST 30, 2026
+ THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

AUGUST 30, 2026
+ THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This
Hymnal Selection 226, arr. Gerhard Krapf
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moment for Mission

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski
Roderick Smith for the Chancel Choir



* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 105:1-5

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered.

* OPENING HYMN 299

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

* 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.

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Same God
Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Pat Barrett, Steven Furtick
Led by Anders Johnson, Samantha Johnson,
Jeanette Mottl, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading
New Testament Reading

Nancy Ebner, Reader
Exodus 3:1-15
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

* Gospel Reading
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Libby Piotrowski

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

HYMN OF RESPONSE 509

Holy Ground

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Small Enough

Nichole Nordeman

2000 Ariose Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Kristen Hunter, Alto

Brian Ward, Baritone and Piano

Lauren Wargaski, Violin

Paul Wargaski, String Bass

Oh great God, be small enough to hear me now.
There were times when I was crying from the dark of Daniel's den.
I had asked you once or twice if you would part the sea again.
Tonight I do not need a fiery pillar in the sky;
just wanna know you're gonna hold me if I start to cry.
Oh great God, be small enough to hear me now.

Oh great God, be close enough to feel you now.
(Oh great God, be close to me.)
There have been moments when I could not face Goliath on my own,
and how could I forget we marched around our share of Jerichos?
But I will not be setting out a fleece for you tonight.
Just wanna know that everything will be all right.
Oh great God, be close enough to feel me now.

All praise and all the honor be to the god of ancient mysteries,
whose every sign and wonder turn the pages of our history.
But tonight my heart is heavy, and I cannot keep from whispering this prayer:
Are you there?

And I know you could leave writing on the wall that's just for me,
or send wisdom while I'm sleeping like in Solomon's sweet dreams.
But I don't need the strength of Sampson or a chariot in the end.
Just wanna know that you still know how many hairs are on my head.
Oh great God (Are you small enough?),
be small enough to hear me now.

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

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Charles Gabriel

Brian Ward, Piano

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 37

The God of Abraham Praise

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Take Up Your Cross,” the Saviour Said

Hymnal Selection 623, arr. Gregory Hamilton

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.*

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

299

1 O for a thou- sand tongues to sing my great Re- deem- er's praise,
 2 My gra- cious Mas- ter and my God, as- sist me to pro- claim,
 3 Je- sus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor- rows cease,
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can- celled sin, he sets the pris- 'ner free;
 5 To God all glo- ry, praise, and love be now and ev- er giv'n

the glo- ries of my God and King, the tri- umphs of his grace!
 to spread thro' all the earth a- broad the hon- ors of your name.
 'tis mu- sic in the sin- ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 his blood can make the foul- est clean, his blood a- vailed for me.
 by saints be- low and saints a- bove, the Church in earth and heav'n. A - men.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

C.M.
AZMON

THE LORD'S PRAYER

887

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

Same God

Pat Barrett, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, and Brandon Lake

Brandon Lake Music
Maverick City Publishing Worldwide
Capitol CMG Genesis
Housefires Sounds
Music by Elevation Worship Publishing
Bethel Music Publishing

A

I'm call - ing on the God of Ja - cob,
I'm call - ing on the God of Mo - ses,

3 A

whose love en - dures through gen - er - a - tions.
the one who o - pened up the o - cean.

5 F#m7 D9

I know that You will keep Your co - ve - nant.
I need You now to do the same thing for me

7 A

O God, my God, I need You. O God, my God, I need You

10 D9 Esus

now. How I need You now.

12 A E/G# F#m7 E

O Rock, O Rock of a - ges. I'm stand - ing on Your faith - ful -

14 D9 A/C# D9

- - ness.

Fine

16 A D A A

I'm call - ing on the God of Mar - y,
I'm call - ing on the God of Dav - id,

18 A D A A

whose fa - vor rests u - pon the low - ly.
who made a shep - herd boy cour - a - geous.

20 1. F#m7 D9

I know with You all things are poss - i - ble

22 2. F#m7 D9 D.S. al Coda

I may not face Go - li - ath, but I've got my own gi - ants!

24 Coda D E F#m7

You heard Your chil - dren then, You hear Your chil-dren now.
You an - swered prayers back then, and You will an - swer now.
You were pro - vid - ing then, You are pro - vid - ing now.
You moved in pow - er then, God, move in po - wer now.
You were a heal - er then, You are a heal - er now.

27 D9

You are the same God. You are the same God.

29 F#m7 E D9 A D9 Bm7 D.S. al Fine

You were asav-ior then, You are asav-ior now. You are the same God. You are the same God.

Holy Ground

1 This is ho - ly ground, we're stand - ing on
ho - ly hands, he's giv - en us

ho - ly ground, for the Lord is pres - ent and
ho - ly hands, he works through these hands and

1 where he is is ho - ly. These are

2 so these hands are ho - ly.

Chord symbols: Eb, Ab/Eb, Abm/Eb, Eb, Fm2, Fm/Eb, Bb/D, Ab/Bb, Bb7, Fm7, Eb/Bb, Fm/Eb, Bb7sus, Eb

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.

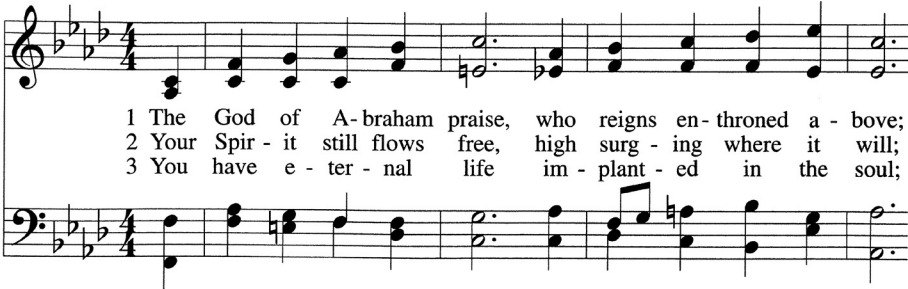
here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host;

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.

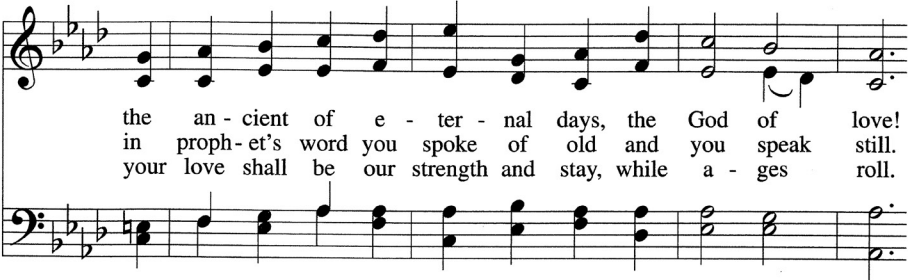
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

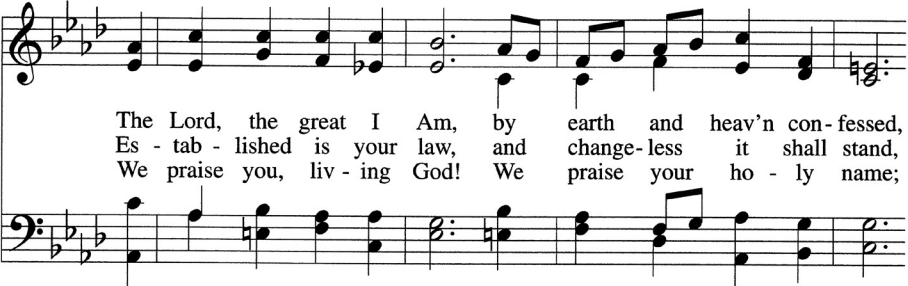
The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 Your Spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will;
 3 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the an - cient of e - ter - nal days, the God of love!
 in proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heav'n con-fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name;



we bow be-fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea or land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for - e'er the same!

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.



The fall issue of *The Quarterly*, our quarterly newsletter, was emailed out this past Friday. Paper copies are available in the narthex, the parlors, and in the hallway near the pastors' offices. If you wish to receive the newsletter electronically, please reach out to Ann-Marie in the church office, and she will add you to the distribution list.

This issue will contain more detailed information about the following activities and events:

- September 13: Celebration Sunday and Block Party, High-school Youth Group to Resume
- September 16: Gather, Music Rehearsals, and Middle-school Youth Group to Resume
- September 18: Outdoor Movie Night
- September 20: Sunday School Start-up, Ministry Fair, and Bryn Mawr Block Party
- September 26: Fall Virtual Prayer Vigil, Pet Blessing

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

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 on Sunday, September 27.

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-ounce)
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

Help us Create a New Church Cookbook! Ann Boyd, our Writer in Residence, is gathering beloved recipes for a new church cookbook. We invite you to 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 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! Keep those submissions coming! Please send submissions to annboyd@gmail.com with the subject line "North Park Cookbook" before October 1, 2026. And take a peek at Ann's writings on creativity and spirituality at annboyd.substack.com.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, September 6:**

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

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.
- We rejoice with **Sofie Piotrowski and Simon Peterson**, who were married on Saturday, August 22, at Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville, IL
- **Rosemary Slaughter**, losing bone density in her left wrist, which is causing discomfort
- **the family of Rev. Jolene Bergstrom-Carlson**, former associate pastor at NPCC, who passed away on Sunday, August 23, following a brief time on hospice after suffering a massive stroke
- **the family of Rev. Greg Mesimore**, former pastor at Edgebrook Covenant Church and friend of our congregation, who passed away on August 18
- **Carolyn Johnson, Lisa Applequist, and family**, mourning the passing of husband and father, Phil Johnson, on August 7, in New Hampshire
- **Pastor Libby and family**, mourning the passing of her father, Craig Johnson, on August 7.
- **Kensey Colon**, who concluded her chemotherapy treatments this past week
- **Doug Wiley**, Rosemary Slaughter's cousin's son, age 50, in the late stages of cancer
- **Paula Schuetz**, whose ankle surgery has been postponed until she gets further clearance from her cardiologist
- Michael Shawn Sanders' **Aunt Maureen**, who is 80 and struggling with the effects of Alzheimer's, and his Uncle Lee (83), who is her sole caregiver
- **Rich Blazyk**, Joel Piotrowski's brother-in-law, on hospice care at home
- **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
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, on hospice care

Be a Friend to a Refugee Youth

Help a student start the school year strong!

Resettled refugee kids face unique hurdles. Often, they need to learn a new language and culture in addition to school subjects.



Here are two ways to help!

Visit a refugee youth in their home (1 hour weekly, 3 months)

You'll help with homework, English practice, and offer encouragement. Visits are coordinated with the student's parents.

Volunteer at Kids Club (1.5 hours weekly/bimonthly, 3 months)

You'll help with learning activities, games, reading, and more at our Heidi's House center in Rogers Park (Chicago).

Over 50 volunteers are needed by September 15. You'll help a refugee student grow in academic skills and confidence!

Exodus provides training, resources, and support throughout your volunteer experience.



Scan the QR to sign up today!
Questions? Contact Bonnie Carson
bonnie.carson@exodusworldservice.org
773.372.5062

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, August 31

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, September 1

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

Wednesday, September 2

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

Thursday, September 3

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
---------	--

Saturday, September 5

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

Sunday, September 6

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
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