



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
+ THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on *The Day of Resurrection!*
Hymnal Selection 260, arr. Richard E. Brown
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski
Ann Boyd

A Moment for Mission from the Chancel Choir



* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, children of God, rejoice in your Maker!

**Let us sing songs and hymns, old and new;
celebrate with voices and instruments, with praise and prayers!**

Open your eyes to the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ.

**For God is already here, among us and within us,
bringing new life to all who believe.**

And God delights in His people, crowning them with honor and glory!

Let's praise God together!

* OPENING HYMN 577

Come, We That Love the Lord

* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May 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.

Bonnie Pfeiffelman, Reader

Exodus 12:1-14

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven
Hymnal Selection 35, arr. David Cherwien
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Your Glory/Nothing but the Blood
David Leonard and Leslie Jordan
Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,
Samantha Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All who believe in Christ and desire to live a life directed by the Holy Spirit are invited
to participate in this sacrament. The bread is gluten-free.*

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving (Insert)

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music

Jesus Paid It All
arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

What an Awesome God

Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham, Richard Mullins

2025 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

Cashagamble Jet Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

Phil Wickham Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC])

Simply Global Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC])

Anders Johnson, Samantha Johnson,

Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Maria Ward

God is great, give Him all the praise.

Hallelujah. Name above all Names.

Fire in His eyes, healing in His veins.

Everywhere, His glory on display.

Take a look at those stars, He can name them all.

Before His throne, every knee falls.

The demons have to run, the angels have to praise.

Even the wind and waves obey.

Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love,
Our God is an awesome God.

And even when I ran, He didn't run away.
He came and put death back in its place.
Friday on a cross, broken for my shame.
Sunday morning, rose up from that grave.

Take a look at those scars on His hands and feet.
He saved our souls for eternity.
Worthy is the Lamb, glory to the King.
Oh, let all the saints and the angels sing.

Eyes on the sky, there will be a day
He will come and wipe our tears away.
No more fear, no more pain,
no more sorrow, sin, or shame.

The King is coming back again,
a reign of love that will never end.
For everything You've done and everything You do,
and everything You are, I'll sing to you.

My God, You're an awesome God,
You're great in all You do.
I'm made to worship You.
My God, You're an awesome God.

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 408

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
arr. Rick Carlson, Brian Ward

POSTLUDE

Prepare Thyself, My Soul; Watch and Pray
Otto Diemel

Please remain seated for the postlude.

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

Come, We That Love the Lord

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God; but
 3 Then let our songs a - bound and ev - 'ry tear be dry; we're

in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with sweet ac - cord
 chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King
 march-ing thro' Em - man - uel's ground, we're march-ing thro' Em-man-uel's ground

and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
 may speak their joys a - broad, may speak their joys a - broad.
 to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain
 We're march-ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on; we're

march-ing up-ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Your Glory / Nothing but the Blood

David Leonard and Leslie Jordan

2011 Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing
[Integrity Music, David C. Cook])

My life is yours. My hope is in You on - ly.

My heart You hold. 'cause You made this sin - ner ho - ly.

Ho - ly Ho - ly. Your glo-ry is so beau - ti - ful.

I fall on-to my knees in awe and the heart beat of my life is to wor -

- ship in Your light Your glo-ry is so beau - ti - ful Your glo-ry is so beau - ti - ful.

What can wash a - way my sin? Nothing but the blood of Je - sus; What can make me

whole a - gain? No - thing but the blood of Je - sus; Oh, pre - cious

is the flow that makes me white as snow No o - ther

D.S. al Fine

fount I know, No - thing but the blood of Je - sus.

A GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere, to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day
when justice shall roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,
when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
At his ascension you exalted him
to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and cup.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 two staves. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature, featuring a simple harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes.

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

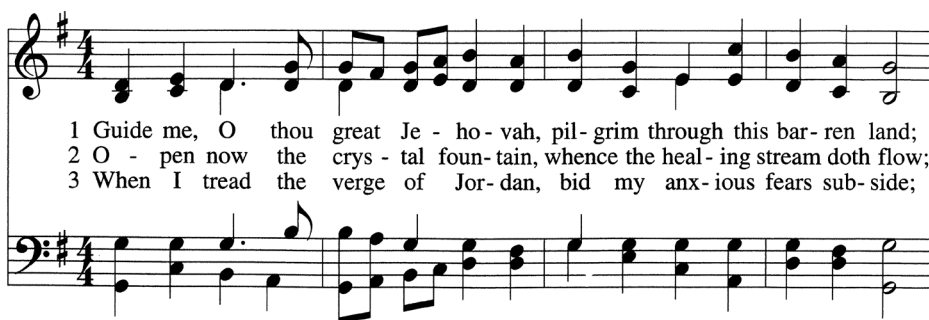
The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff shows a continuation of the eighth-note melody. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

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

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff features a final melodic phrase ending with a double bar line. The bass staff concludes with a final chord and a double bar line.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

408



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;



I am weak, but thou art might - y— hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand:
 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through:
 bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent, land me safe on Ca - naan's side:



Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
 strong De - liv - 'rer, strong De - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more (want no more), feed me till I want no more.
 shield (strength and shield), be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee (give to thee), I will ev - er give to thee. A - men.

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

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

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 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), 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 am: Coffee bar opens
Confirmation for students in 7th and 8th grade begins
9:15 am: Adult Formation begins
Sunday School for children in preschool through 6th grade begins
10:30 am: Worship followed by Ministry Fair

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 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 popcorn and candy to share. In the case of rain, we'll move indoors to the parlors.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, September 13:**

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

We Invite You Into Prayer: On Saturday, September 26, all are welcome to participate in the Fall Prayer Vigil between 7 am and 7 pm. It is such a privilege to pray collectively out of our own homes by signing up for a half hour to pray for our church, our neighborhood, and beyond. We hope you will sign up using the sign-up sheet provided using this link. You will receive a Prayer Guide on Friday, September 25, to use if you so choose. Thank you for honoring prayer as an integral part of the ministry of our church!

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.

You are invited to memorialize three friends of our congregation, all on Saturday, September 26:

A service for Greg Mesimore will take place at 11 am at Edgebrook Covenant Church (6355 N. Spokane Ave., Chicago).

A service for Erica Lofquist will take place at 1:30 pm Central Time in our sanctuary and online at <http://live.npcovenant.org>, followed by a service of inurnment in our columbarium, and a reception in the parlors. Diane Haglund will provide food for the reception, and she is asking for RSVPs so she knows how much to prepare. Please reach out to her directly by texting 773-301-4159 to let her know.

A service for Jolene Bergstrom-Carlson will take place at 3 pm at Anderson Chapel (5137 N. Spaulding Ave.) on the North Park University campus. This service will also be livestreamed, but the link has not yet been shared.

We invite you to join us in celebrating North Park Church Cooperative Preschool! While we are saddened by the closure of our dear Preschool, we also celebrate all of the good it brought to children and their families throughout its 63 year lifespan. On Sunday, September 27, 2026, we will recognize and give thanks to God for the life of the Preschool during morning worship at 10:30 am. Following worship, we invite you to join us for a special coffee hour and a brief slideshow. The preschool room will also be open for those who would like to take a peek inside!

If you have photos or stories you'd like to share on the 27th, please email them to Ann-Marie in the church office by Tuesday, September 22, so they can be included. Thank you!

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 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! Keep those 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.

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!

It's Almost Ministry Fair Time!

Sunday, September 20, following worship

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, talent, and treasure), and places to be nurtured and grow (in relationship, faith, and love). To that end, we hope you'll all join us for a ministry fair and special coffee hour!

Ministry Fair Details

As a church body, we are committed to the Pietistic idea of living and serving for God's glory and for neighbors' good. But living and serving together that way doesn't happen by accident or magic. Instead, the invitation is for each of us to bring our gifts to the table and serve in the ways in which we are best suited, to build God's Kingdom here on earth where good can flourish in every corner; for God's glory and for neighbors' good.

And so, to share the ministry opportunities of this church body and welcome one another into service, we will enjoy a Ministry Fair again this year. Again this year, we are separating the fair from the block party celebration as a means of focusing more on serving together. This is an opportunity for lay leadership groups to share the ministry work of individual boards and committees and to encourage people to volunteer and get involved in new ways.

We will hold the Ministry Fair on September 20, complete with a raffle surprise! However, we will leave up our displays for a couple of weeks following, so we all can continue to pray for and think on how we might serve.

If you as an individual, or your board or committee, would like to participate in the Ministry Fair, here is what you need to do:

1. *Let Pastor Libby know* you'd like to participate so she can provide space for you.

2. *Come with any materials and/or visuals* for the table that morning. We hope to have tables and displays set up no later than 10:30 am—in time for worship. Display boards in various sizes are available for you through the church office. Just let

Ann-Marie or Libby know if you need one, and when you can come pick it up.

3. In your display, *consider highlighting the ways we minister* to one another. For example: Sign your child up for Sunday School, confirmation, or youth group; check out the many ministries of our church and learn how the church might come alongside and minister to those in our community!

Also, consider highlighting ways that we (church and community) can engage in serving our neighbors together. For example: Sign up to help with a Trustee workday, volunteer to deliver groceries for The Friendship Center, walk with others to clean up trash in the neighborhood, tutor for an hour at Hibbard Elementary, or serve coffee on a Sunday morning. Volunteer to be a deacon for the day or serve communion when it is needed; sign up to teach Sunday School—kids or adults! For a few of these things, one must be a member of the church. However, most of these opportunities for serving require only a willing spirit and a desire to serve!

Don't forget sign-up sheets if you need them!

for your prayers this week

- **Community prayer:** As the school year is getting underway, we invite you to pray for the teachers and students at our neighborhood schools—Peterson, Hibbard, Von Steuben, and Northside College Prep.
- **those affected by flash floods** in Nepal, Colombia, and in the Grand Canyon
- for strength and healing for **Ann Marie Strom** as she begins a new infusion medication to help with severe pain
- **Rosemary Slaughter**, as she is 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 a massive stroke on August 13
- **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 chemotherapy treatments last 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
- **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

The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day - Office Closed

6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)

Tuesday, September 8

10:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)

4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, September 9

10 am Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)

7 pm Knit or Not (Location TBD)

Thursday, September 10

4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, September 11

5 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Latin Festival (Parlors, South Garden)

Saturday, September 12

10 am NPU/Trustee Work Day (Gym)

Sunday, September 13

10:30 am Outdoor Worship (South Garden)

11:45 am Block Party (Sidewalk along Christiana, South Garden)

1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)

7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

High-school Youth Group Resumes (Attic Youth Room)

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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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