



NORTH PARK

COVENANT CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
+ THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G minor, BWV 558
J.S. Bach
Janice Finney, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter



CHORAL INTROIT

Gathered in God's Presence
Hymnal Selection 504, verses 1 and 2
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 105

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered.
Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.
Egypt was glad when they departed,
for dread of them had fallen upon it.
They asked, and he brought quails.
God gave them food from heaven in abundance.
He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.
For he remembered his holy promise.
He remembered Abraham, his servant.
So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.
He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.
Praise the Lord!

* OPENING HYMN 78

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CONSECRATION OF LAY LEADERS

CHORAL ANTHEM

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Tom Fettke

When I gaze into the night skies
and see the work of Your fingers;
the moon and stars suspended in space.
What are we that You are mindful of us?

You have given us a crown of glory and honor
and have made us a little lower than the angels.
You have put us in charge of all creation:
the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.

But what are we that You are mindful of us?
O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of Your name
transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly,
and so would we. Alleluia!

The majesty and glory of Your name. Alleluia!

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gaius Berg, Reader

Exodus 16:2-15

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Libby Piotrowski

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Jireh

Chandler Moore, Chris Brown, Naomi Raine, Steven Furtick

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

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Hymnal Selection 365, arr. Marianne Kim

Sam Parnin, Organ

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 552

How Great the Joy

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Hymnal Selection 594, arr. Joel Raney

*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out
and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

** 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.*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther! There is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not: as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row—bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, great is thy faith-ful-ness, morn-ing by

morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed— great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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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

Jireh

Chandler Moore, Chris Brown, Naomi Raine, Steven Furtick

For Humans Publishing (Admin by Essential Music Publishing)
Maverick City Publishing (Admin by Essential Music Publishing)
Heritage Worship Music Publishing (Admin. by Bethel Music Publishing)
Maverick City Publishing (Admin. by Bethel Music Publishing)
Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)
Naomi Raine Music (Admin. by Heritage Worship Publishing)



I'll ne-ver be more loved than I



am right now was-n't hold-ing You up so there's no-thing I can do to let You down It



does-n't take a tro-phy to make You proud I'll ne-ver be more loved than I am right



now Go-ing through a storm but I won't go down I hear Your voice



car-ried in the rhy-th-m of the wind to call me out You would cross an o - cean so



I would-n't drown You've ne-ver been clos-er than You are right now

20

Ji - reh, You are e - nough Ji - reh, You are e - nough I

24

will be con - tent in e - very cir - cum - stance Ji - reh, You are e - nough

27

I don't wan - na for - get how I feel right now on the moun - tain - top

30

I can see so clear what it's all a - bout Stay by my side when the

33

sun goes down don't wan - na for - get how I feel right now.

36

Ji - reh, You are e - nough Ji - reh, You are e - nough I

40

will be con - tent in e - very cir - cum - stance Ji - reh, You are e - nough

44

If He dress - es the lil - lies with beau - ty and splen - dor

47

How much more will He clothe you? How much more will He clothe you?

49

If He watch - es o - ver e - ver - y spar - row

51

How much more does He love you? How much more does He love you?

53

If He dres - ses the lil - lies Ji - reh, You are e - nough

56

Ji - reh, You are e - nough I will be con - tent in e -

59

- very cir - cum - stance Ji - reh, You are e - nough

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 active line with eighth 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 solid foundation with sustained notes and chords.

How Great the Joy

A E/G# A/C# D Bm/D E E7

1 How great the joy the Lord pro-vides for us so free-ly
 2 It is so good to love the Lord, who gave his life for
 3 When shad-ows come, as come they will, and gloom per-vades the
 4 So let us not be filled with care for home and dai-ly
 5 With joy we walk with Je-sus here, how great a Friend is

A E/G# A/C# D Bm

here, when at his ta-ble he pre-sides and
 all. So good to trust his liv-ing Word, be
 day, when hopes once bright grow cold and chill, the
 bread. In grace the Lord his love will share and
 he! But think what joy a-waits us there, when

E E7 A F#m

we to him draw near! His grace is new each
 lift-ed when we fall. When earth-ly plea-sures
 Lord pro-vides a way. In heav'n his light will
 sure-ly we'll be fed. Through all our days he's
 heav-en's light we see. Our hopes and dreams will

day and hour, and we can rest up - on his pow'r.
 reach their end, our feast of joy will just be - gin.
 al - ways shine, and bless - ed - ness be yours and mine.
 by our side, he bears what - ev - er may be - tide.
 be com - plete, when at the heav'n - ly feast we meet.

Refrain
 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, a - men!

God's gift to his sorrowing creatures is to give them joy worthy of their destiny.

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Every time we take part in the Lord's Supper, we are reminded that Jesus died and arose again in order that we might have good relationships with God, with ourselves, and with others. We end each time together with joy because we have again been assured that our sins are forgiven, because we know that God will help us to be faithful Christians, and because Jesus has promised to come again.

Wesley W. Nelson, 1910-

God's Friends, Called to Believe and Belong, © 1985 Covenant Publications

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 of the parlors) during the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We 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 *Covenant Home Altar*, our denomination's daily devotional, is now available. Please feel free to pick up a copy from the narthex or in the hallway by the pastors' offices next time you're at church.

We invite you to join us after worship for a Ministry Fair! Come to the parlors (lower level) to learn about the various ministries that take place here at NPCC, and how you might become involved!

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 Kimball 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!

Pastor Libby is looking for another Sunday School teacher for kids in kindergarten through 4th grade. If you're interested, or if you have questions, please reach out to Libby directly.

You may have noticed our beautiful new little free library, located just outside the south garden. Now, we are pleased to announce that there is a sign on it directing passersby to free household supplies and personal care items, located in a new storage cabinet inside the first set of south doors, which is accessible every day that the church is open. Please consider helping to keep our new neighborhood pantry full of essential care items such as diapers, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies. Also, don't forget to donate gently used books to the little free library. Additionally, if you or someone you know is in need of any of these pantry items, please take what you need for yourself or them.

High Schoolers, Make Note! We've got a crazy idea, and Pastor Jeff is launching a high-school Sunday School group this fall called Tabletop Sundays. If you're in high school and want to eat goodies, play some imagination games, and take a different angle on Jesus' teachings about ethics, community, and creativity, get to the Attic on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am!

The North Park Readers will resume meeting this month. Our next meeting is planned for Tuesday, September 22, at 7 pm. We will read *James* by Percival Everett. This is the reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. Helen Arkema will host. If you have any questions, please email her at helen.arkema@gmail.com.

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 at tinyurl.com/2026-fall-prayer-vigil. 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!

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 in our sanctuary, followed by a service of inurnment in our columbarium, and a reception in the parlors. Diane Haglund is asking for RSVPs so she knows how much food to prepare. Please reach out to her by texting 773-301-4159.
 - 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. The dress code is, simply, to "dress like you", as Jolene loved everyone as they were.

We are once again collecting school supplies for families in need from our neighborhood elementary schools, Hibbard and Peterson. Please consider 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	Bottles of hand sanitizer	Clorox disinfectant wipes
Elmer's glue sticks	(32-ounce)	Sticky notes (3" x 3")
Ticonderoga pencils	Boxes of Kleenex tissues	Graph Paper
Washable Crayola markers	Child-sized headphones	Notecards (3" x 5")
Crayola crayons (24-packs)	Gallon-sized ziplock bags	Single-subject spiral notebooks
Paper towels	Quart-sized ziplock bags	Watercolor paint sets
Expo low-odor fine-tip	Wide-ruled composition	Rulers
dry erase markers	notebooks	Pencil-top erasers

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, 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!

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, September 27:**

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-25

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!

This month marks the conclusion of the Building With Faithfulness campaign! We are so grateful for all of the contributions made over the past three years. If you are still fulfilling your pledge, we will continue to welcome gifts through the end of the year. If you have any questions about recurring gifts you may have set up on the church website, please feel free to reach out to Samantha Johnson (treasurer@npcovenant.org or 773-383-0682). As we wrap up the campaign, we look forward to the discernment process for deciding the recipients of our third annual tithe for the funds received in the past year!

Do you need offering envelopes for 2027? Each year, we order offering envelopes for those members and friends who wish to use them for their weekly giving. If you received envelopes last year and wish to receive them again this year, you do not need to do anything. However, if you received them last year and do not wish to continue receiving them, or if you did not receive them last year and do want to receive them for next year, please reach out to Ann-Marie in the church office by Tuesday, October 20, to let her know. Thank you!

It's time to bike for Congo! Did you know that some people in DR Congo travel more than 50 kilometers (31 miles) on a bicycle to a hospital, while sick or injured? And what's even harder to believe is that when they arrive at the hospital, limited medicines, clean water, medical training, or funds often prevent a person from getting better. But there's a way you can help!

Just as people in Congo travel over 50 km to get to a hospital, we are biking 50 km in October with the goal to raise \$50,000 for UCare4Congo, Paul Carlson Partnership's healthcare fund.

You're invited to join us! You have the whole month of October to complete 50 km (31 miles) and meet your fundraising goal. (If you don't bike, you can walk, run, swim, kayak, whatever...!)

Here's how to get started:

1. Visit paulcarlson.org/biking4congo.
2. Select "Donate" or "Become A Fundraiser". Choose if you'll raise funds as an individual or team.
3. Invite family and friends to sponsor your ride using the online fundraising tools.
4. Order t-shirts that also support the needs in DR Congo.
5. Share your individual and team updates with your sponsors.
6. Ride 50 km (31 miles) in October and celebrate your success on PCP Sunday in November!

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 ingredients, the finished product, or something else.

Ann has already received several submissions, but she will happily welcome more! Please send submissions to annboyd@gmail.com with the subject line “North Park Cookbook” *before October 1, 2026*. Thanks!

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, Northside College Prep, Mather, Roosevelt, and Northside Learning Center. We also invite you to pray for all those involved in the schools in the area you live in.
- **the Thorpe, Olfelt, and Hosek families**, as they mourn the passing of Eileen Thorpe this past Thursday
- Marti Hindaileh requests prayer for a dear friend’s mother, **Missy Baker**, who is in a battle with breast cancer and currently in intensive care
- **Joel Piotrowski and family**, mourning the passing of his brother-in-law Rich Blazyk, who passed away on Wednesday, September 9
- **Ann Marie Strom**, as she begins a new infusion medication to help with severe pain
- **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 August 23, following a brief time on hospice after suffering 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
- **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 clearance from her cardiologist
- **Diane Haglund**, undergoing a series of shots over the next few months in preparation for back surgery in October
- **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 21

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 22

8 am	Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

Wednesday, September 23

10 am	Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
6 pm	Gather Dinner (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7 pm	Knit or Not (Coffee Lounge)
	Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room)
7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, September 24

4:30 pm	Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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Friday, September 25

9 am	Peterson Organ Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
1 pm	Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)

Saturday, September 26

7 am	Fall Virtual Prayer Vigil
8 am	Geezerball (Gym)
10 am	Pet Blessing (South Garden)
10:15 am	Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
1:30 pm	Lofquist Memorial Service, Inurnment (Sanctuary, Columbarium)
2:30 pm	Lofquist Memorial Reception (Parlors)

Sunday, September 27

9 am	Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
9:15 am	Adult Formation (Parlors)
	Art Journaling (Art Room)
	Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
	Tabletop Sundays (Attic Youth Room)
10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
6:30 pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary?)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)
	High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

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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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