



**NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
+ THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Jesus Paid It All
arr. Nigel Williams
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

Rummage Sale
Building with Faithfulness

Susan Dawson
Mary Chase-Ziolek for the Board of Deacons

CHORAL INTROIT

Come into His Presence (519)
Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103:8-13

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

* OPENING HYMN 299

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887 (Using *sins*)

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you.
And also with you.

125th VIDEO

Music at NPCC

CHORAL ANTHEM

Offertory
John Ness Beck

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 50:15-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Backpack Blessing

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Desert Song

Brooke Ligertwood

2008 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Led by Dominic German, Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson, and Brian Ward

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 [here](#).

Offertory

Amazing Grace

Traditional

* Doxology 48

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING HYMN 355

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

He Is King of Kings

Douglas E. Wagner

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

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

887

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

Desert Song

Brook Fraser



This is my prayer in the des-ert when all that's with-in me feels



dry. This is my prayer in my hun-ger and need my



God is the God who pro-vides This is my prayer in the
This is my prayer in the



fi-re in weak-ness or tri-al or pain.
bat-tle when tri-umph is still on its way.



There is a faith proved of more worth than gold, so re-fine me, Lord, through the
I am a con-queror and co-heir with Christ, so firm on His pro-mise I'll



flame. I will bring praise. I will bring praise No weap-on formed
stand.



a-against me shall re main I will re-joice I will de-clare God is my vic-

24 1.

to - ry and He is here.

29

here. All of my life in e - very sea - son You

33

are still God I have a rea - son to sing I have a rea - son to wor -

37

ship. and I willbring praise, I willbring praise No wea-pon formed

41

a-gainst me shall re - main I will re-joyce I will de-clare God is my vic -

45

to - ry and He is here.

50

This is my prayer in the har - vest when fa - vor and pro - vi - dence flow

54

I know I'm filled to be emp-tied a-gain the seed I've re-ceived I will sow.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

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

here below; praise him above ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
 MUSIC: attrib. Louis Bourgeois, c.1510-c.1561; arr. Genevan Psalter, 1551

L.M.
 OLD 100th (alt. rhythm)

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive” 355

1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and

taught us, Lord, to pray, but you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: what triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease. Then, bound to all in

grant us grace to live the words we say.
 will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us, how great our debt to you.
 bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!

We're glad you're here.

For your prayers this week:

- **those affected by the earthquake in Morocco**, where the death toll now exceeds 2,900
- Janice Finney's brother-in-law, **Tim Rohr**, who has been diagnosed with metastatic cancer
- **Edgar Muniz**, a friend of Rosemary Slaughter who is trying to move to Chicago from Florida
- **Jim Hosek**, hospitalized with pain for which there seems to be no cause
- **Barbara Nordlund and family**, mourning the passing of her father, Dwight Samuelson, on September 2
- **Andrew Clauson and family**, mourning the passing of his father, Herb, on August 26
- **Peter and Anna Kim**, missionaries in Taiwan, as Peter awaits news of his visa application

Missionary Prayer Spotlight

John and Letha Kerl, regional missionary coordinators for Europe, share the following requests:

- For our upcoming trip September 10-22, when we will travel to Kiel, Germany, and then to Ciudad Real, Spain, for the Joining Hands in Mission Conference sponsored by the International Federation of Free Evangelical Churches, the focus of which will be church planting.
- For meetings in Chicago September 24-29. We will be at Covenant Harbor September 27-28 for a retreat with President Tammy Swanson-Draheim and Covenant Offices staff.
- For our upcoming MENA-Euro (Middle East/North Africa and Europe) Retreat, to be held on Malta from October 23-28. The theme will be focused on navigating change.
- For John's retirement, beginning November 1; for Letha as she continues as Regional Coordinator for Europe and in her role mentoring new leaders.



Are you biking, walking, running, or moving in some other way for the Biking for Congo Challenge in October this year? If so, please contact Sue Vandervoort at suev307@sbcglobal.net or 773-769-1963 with your name and team name. Pastors Libby and Jeff will offer prayers for participants on September 24 or October 1. Thank you!

A new Adult Bible Study is starting! This study is for everyone who is an adult and wants to experience community centered around God's Word. We are currently studying Matthew and tracking along with the church's sermons. This is a space for everyone to be themselves. The Bible Study is tentatively meeting at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays in the large conference room on the lower level of the church. Please contact Sara Wendt at s.wendt1221@gmail.com with any questions.

Praying for Our Neighborhood in 2023

Join us this week, as we pray for those in our community whose last names begin with...

Kk

Pianos for sale! We have three upright pianos here at church that are all in good playing condition but are not needed by us. We would very much like to remove them from the spaces they're in, and the sooner the better! If you're interested in looking at and playing them to see if you would like to purchase one, please contact Ann-Marie in the church office, and she will set up a time to do that.

Come Gather with us! Every Wednesday night, we invite you to join us for dinner at 6 pm, followed by activities for different ages and interests!

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 6-7 pm | Gather Dinner (Parlors) |
| 6:30-7:10 pm | Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) |
| 6:30-7:10 pm | Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room) |
| 7-8:30 pm | Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room) |
| 7:15-8:30 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) |
| 7:30-8:30 pm | Adult Bible Study (Large Conference Room) - NEW! |

The suggested donation for dinner is \$6/person or \$20/family. We hope you'll gather with us each week for food and fellowship!

The Nome Missions Team invites you to a presentation about their trip to Alaska, which will be held at Gather on Wednesday, September 20. You will hear from team members, see a slideshow of their experiences, and have a surprise treat for dessert. There will also be a display of mementoes from Nome. Please RSVP for dinner by the end of the day tomorrow [using this link](#). We look forward to seeing you there!



Will you pray with us? As we continue to celebrate our 125th anniversary, we realize just how much prayer has played an integral part in our life together and all the lives that have preceded us. And, as the summer gently morphs into fall, we as a congregation adhere to a more structured schedule again. The schedule includes opening a delightful and worthy package wrapped in the privilege of extending ourselves into a deeper faith as we joyfully plunge into our anniversary campaign. Its name says it all: Building with Faithfulness! That is one thing we will be praying for at our Virtual Prayer Vigil on Saturday, September 23, from 7 am to 7 pm. Please [use this form to sign up](#) for half an hour or more. The materials you may use, if you choose, will be forwarded to you if you sign up.

Would you like to learn more about our organ? As we celebrate the faithfulness of God throughout the last 125 years, we give thanks for the gift of a beautiful organ that brings musical depth and tradition to our worship! On Sunday, September 24, join us for Musical Machinery & Munchies, an organ tour of sorts and some pizza! This event is especially good for kids, but adults are welcome too! We will begin at 12:30 pm and be done by about 1:30 pm. The cost is \$5/person to cover food expenses, payable online or via check or cash. Please RSVP by Friday, September 22, at noon, [using this link](#).

Have you ever wondered how to have meaningful and deep conversations with your Jewish and Muslim neighbors? Come join “Conversations between Jews, Muslims, and Christians around the Psalms”, led by our own North Park University professor Boaz Johnson. We will be engaging with Afghan Bible Institute in Turkey, via Zoom. The discussion group will meet in our large conference room every Saturday from 12 to 2 pm, beginning September 23, 2023.



Food, Fun, and Fellowship: Women of NPCC, of any age, please come to a casual brunch on Saturday, September 30, at 9:30 am. We women haven't been together to celebrate ourselves in a long time. During this time of celebrating our 125th anniversary, we realize that the outstanding efforts of our women have been an integral component in bringing us to where we are today! So, paying tribute as we look back and feeling fortified as we move forward, it is exciting to think about how God might use all our marvelous gifts and skills in the future God has planned for our church. Check out an article in the September *Narthex* and then [sign up for a time of food, fun, and fellowship](#).

Attention, young readers! The deadline for turning in your Summer Reading Challenge sheets is Sunday, October 1. If you did not get a sheet or have lost your sheet, more are available in the church library on the small table near the door. Your sheets can be turned in at coffee hour on October 1 or given to Pastor Libby in Sunday School. Prizes will be awarded October 8 during Sunday School.



The Board of Community Concern appreciates the school supplies donated thus far for Hibbard Elementary School! If you would still like to donate, you may find needed [items listed by grade here](#). We will accept donations until Sunday, October 1, and will make our final delivery to Hibbard on Monday, October 2. Thank you for considering helping out in this way!

You're invited to join us for a soup supper and hymn sing on Sunday, October 1, beginning at 6 pm. Dr. Mark Safstrom, Covenant historian, will lead us in the hymn sing, as well as share some church history and the importance of hymnody throughout our collective story. There will be a nominal fee of \$5/person to cover the cost of that evening's meal. [Please reserve your spot](#) by the end of the day on Tuesday, September 26.

On Wednesday, October 4, we as a church will pack meals at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Libertyville (742 East Park Ave., Libertyville) from 7-8:45 pm. Everyone is welcome! Those who would like to participate can meet for dinner at 5:30 at the Culver's down the road from FMSC (803 E. Park Ave.) and then go pack meals. You can [use this link to sign up](#) (if prompted, use code EW3WKG). *Please note: There will be no Gather dinner, middle-school youth group, or music rehearsals that night!*



The Rummage Sale is almost here! We need plastic bags, brown paper bags, hangers of all sizes, and newspapers to wrap breakables. We need strong arms willing to help move furniture (this is a big need). We need people willing to help organize sets of like items for display. This work will start on Tuesday, September 26, and be done every day at various times. We need bakers willing to bake goods for the coffee bar, which will be run by the youth group as a fundraiser for Unite (formerly CHIC) next summer. Don't know exactly what you can do? Just offer your help, and we'll find just the right place for your skills! Please reach out to Susan Dawson at dnsdawson@aol.com. *If you have large items to donate, please wait to bring them to church until the week prior to the sale.*

Our church has a fantastic opportunity to come together and welcome refugees to our community! Join Exodus World Service to learn more about Private Sponsorship, an exciting program that allows small groups to resettle refugees. Groups provide core services while building meaningful relationships with newcomers. Exodus is here to train and walk alongside us! To learn more or join an information session, visit exodusworldservice.org/sponsorship-info.



News and Needs from Covenant Harbor (Lake Geneva, WI):

- 1) We are still looking for some kitchen staff and volunteers. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the parlors. All inquires can be made to Sandy Wendtland at swendtland@covenantharbor.org.
 - 2) Our believe.love.serve. volunteer day is coming up on Saturday, October 7. We have many projects that need to be completed to prepare camp for winter. Please contact Matthew Kinney at mkinney@covenantharbor.org for more information or [click here to register](#).
 - 3) Summer staff applications for 2024 are now open on our website! We are already hiring for next year's summer camp positions. If you have any questions, please contact Emma Mueller at emueller@covenantharbor.org.
- All of these details can also be found on our website at www.covenantharbor.org.

The text for today's choral anthem is as follows:

Offertory

John Ness Beck, arr. Craig Courtney

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?

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The Church Calendar This Week

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

Monday, September 18

- 9 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
- 7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, September 19

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

Wednesday, September 20

- 10 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid)
- 6 pm Gather Dinner (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7 pm Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study (Large Conference Room) - NEW!

Thursday, September 21

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 8:15 pm Swanson Basketball (Gym)

Friday, September 22

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (North Room)

Saturday, September 23

- 7 am-7 pm Virtual Prayer Vigil
- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10:30 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 12 pm Interscriptural Readings Group (Large Conference Room)

Sunday, September 24

- 9 am Confirmation (Large Conference Room)
- 9:15 am Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
- 9:15 am Adult Formation (Parlors)
- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:30 pm Musical Machinery and Munchies (Sanctuary)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

North Park Covenant

Church Staff

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Missionaries We Support

John and Letha Kerl,
Field Representatives for Europe

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,
Latin America

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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