



# **NORTH PARK COVENANT CHURCH**

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023  
+ THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Bound for the Kingdom  
Anthony Giamanco  
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski

CHORAL INTROIT

Here I Am (627)  
Chancel Choir, Dominic German, Director

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145:1-8

We will extol you, our God and King,  
**and bless your name forever and ever.**

Every day we will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

**Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;**

his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.**

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, we will meditate.

**The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and we will declare your greatness.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful,

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.**

\* OPENING HYMN 72

To God Be the Glory

\* 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

New Testament Reading

\* Gospel Reading

Sara Wendt, Reader

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

I Will Sing with the Spirit  
John Rutter

LAUNCHING THE BUILDING WITH FAITHFULNESS CAMPAIGN

\* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

God of Wonders

Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong

Meaux Mercy/Never Say Never Songs/New Spring/Storm Boy Music

Led by Emma Hunter, Anders Johnson,  
Linnea Olfelt, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

\* A PRAYER LITANY

Lynn Pearson

Gracious God, our Creator and the giver of all life, we praise you for your faithfulness to North Park Covenant Church these last 125 years, and we thank you for your many gifts.

**Help us to be good stewards of every gift.**

We pray that Your Spirit will continue to lead us and grow us for the next 125 years.

**As we embark on this Building with Faithfulness campaign, we give you thanks for the monies that have already been pledged and given.**

Help us to be good stewards of every gift.

**We ask for your continued guidance as decisions are made, contracts are signed, and the work begins.**

Open our eyes to the power of the Gospel to transform our time, talent, and treasure, to transform us all by the good news of the gospel.

**Bestow patience and wisdom on all who lead us.**

It is our desire to share your boundless grace, love, and peace with our church, our community, and our world. For God's glory and neighbors' good.

**In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Pass Me Not  
Todd Kendall

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 31

Now Thank We All Our God

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O God, Thou Faithful God  
J.S. Bach

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

## To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo-ry—great things he has done! So loved he the  
 2 O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - 'ry be-  
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our re-

world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -  
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fen - der who  
 joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er, and

tone - ment for sin, and o - pen'd the life - gate that all may go in.  
 tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.  
 great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

*Refrain*

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915  
 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

11.11.11. with Refrain  
 TO GOD BE THE GLORY

A lower setting can be found at 108.

GOD THE REDEEMER

Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo- ple re-joice! O come to the Fa- ther thro'

Je- sus the Son, and give him the glo- ry—great things he has done!

The image shows a musical score for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

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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*

# God of Wonders

Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong



Lord of all cre - a - tion of wa-ter, earth, and sky.  
Ear-ly in the mor - ning I will cel-e-brate the light.



The hea-vens are your ta-ber-na - cle. Glo-ry to the Lord on high  
As Istum-ble in the dark - ness I will call Your name by night.



God of won - ders be-yond our ga-la - xy, You are ho - ly, ho - ly the



u - ni-verse de-clar-es Your ma-je - sty. You are ho - ly, ho - ly.



Lord of hea-ven and earth. Lord of hea-ven and earth.



Hal - le-lu - jah to the Lord of hea-ven and earth. Hal - le-lu - jah to the



Lord of hea-ven and earth, Hal-He-lu - jah to the Lord of hea-ven and earth. *D.S.*

## Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen." The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern of chords and single notes, providing a simple harmonic support for the vocal line.

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all crea-tures  
 here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host;  
 praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

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

## Now Thank We All Our God

31

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won - drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;  
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more. A - men.



# *Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!*

## *We're glad you're here.*

### *For your prayers this week:*

- **Corky Larson and family**, mourning the passing of her husband, Paul, on September 20
- **those affected by the earthquake in Morocco**
- **those affected by the hurricane in Libya**
- 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**, home again but still experiencing 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

### Praying for Our Neighborhood in 2023

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

LI

**The Friday-afternoon prayer group has resumed** for the fall. Please feel free to join them in the north room prayer chapel/library on Fridays each week at 1 pm. For more information, please contact Sandy Edstrom at 773-504-9050.

**Are you biking, walking, or running for the Biking for Congo Challenge** in October this year? If so, please contact Sue Vandervoort at [suev307@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suev307@sbcglobal.net) or 773-769-1963 with your name and team name. Pastors Libby and Jeff will offer prayers for participants on October 1. Thank you!

**A new Adult Bible Study has begun!** 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](mailto:s.wendt1221@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Pianos for sale!** We have three upright pianos here at church that are all in good playing condition but are not needed by us. 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.

**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 it is exciting to think about how God might use our marvelous gifts and skills in the future God has planned for our church. To sign up, [please use this link](#).

**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 on October 8 during Sunday School.

**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! The activities of that evening can be found in the calendar on the inside back cover of today's bulletin. Please RSVP by the end of the day tomorrow, [using this link](#). The suggested donation for dinner is \$6/person or \$20/family. We hope you'll gather with us each week for food and fellowship!

**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](#). *Please note: There will be no Gather dinner, middle-school youth group, or music rehearsals that night!* If you need assistance with transportation, please reach out to [Jeanette Mottl](#) or [Pastor Libby](#).

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

### **I Will Sing with the Spirit**

*John Rutter*

I will sing with the spirit, alleluia!  
And I will sing with the understanding also: alleluia!  
I will sing with the spirit, alleluia!

## The Church Calendar This Week

The calendar is available online at [www.npcovenant.org/calendar](http://www.npcovenant.org/calendar) and is updated as changes occur.

### *Monday, September 25*

- 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 26*

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

### *Wednesday, September 27*

- 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 near the Gym)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study (Large Conference Room)

### *Thursday, September 28*

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

### *Friday, September 29*

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (North Room)

### *Saturday, September 30*

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 9:30 am Women's Brunch and Conversation (Parlors)
- 10:30 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 12 pm Interscriptural Readings Group (Large Conference Room)

### *Sunday, October 1*

- 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 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal (Junior Chapel)
- 6 pm Soup Supper and Hymn Sing (Parlors)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)

## North Park Covenant

### Church Staff

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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, Director of Youth Ministry  
jmottl@npcovenant.org

Brian Ward, Music Ministry Coordinator/Organist  
bward@npcovenant.org

Dominic German, Director, Chancel Choir and  
Chancel Handbell Choir  
dgerman@npcovenant.org

Joline Paska, Treasurer  
treasurer@npcovenant.org, ext. 505

Christian Schuetz, Custodian  
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

Ann-Marie O. Frisk, Church Administrator  
afrisk@npcovenant.org, ext. 500

## North Park Church

### Cooperative Preschool

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Becky Edwards  
Administrative Director

Lyndsey Wellner  
Head Teacher/Educational Director

Jennifer Glazier  
Assistant Teacher

(773) 463-0055, ext. 520  
preschool@npcovenant.org  
www.npcovenant.org/npccp

### The Friendship Center

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2711 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Justin Block  
Executive Director  
justin@friendshipcenterchicago.org

(773) 907-6338  
info@friendshipcenterchicago.org  
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

### Missionaries We Support

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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

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*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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