



# **NORTH PARK**

## **COVENANT CHURCH**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024  
+ THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

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PRELUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner  
Brian Ward, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 89

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
**with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
**your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:  
"I will establish your descendants forever,  
and build your throne for all generations."

**Praise the Lord!**

\* OPENING HYMN 485

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

\* 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

Light the Fire  
Bill Maxwell  
1986 Bloodsmith Music  
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

I stand to praise you, but I fall on my knees.  
My spirit is willing, but my flesh is so weak.

*Chorus:* So, light the fire in my soul.  
Fan the flame; make me whole.

Lord you know where I've been,  
so light the fire in my heart again.

I feel your arms around me, as the power of your healing begins.  
Your spirit moves through me, like a mighty rushing wind. *Chorus*

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

\* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Susan Dawson, Reader

Song of Songs 2:8-13

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Take My Life

Scott Underwood

1995 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Led by Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,  
Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Sharing in the Meal

Communion Music

Jesus Saves

William Kirkpatrick, arr. Mark Hayes

Sam Parnin, Piano

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](http://www.npcovenant.org/give).*

Offertory

Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One

Healey Willan

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 439

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You  
Rick Carlson

POSTLUDE

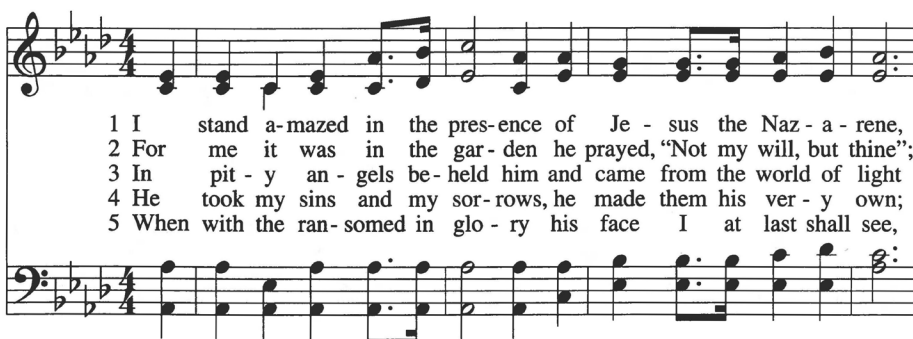
Sortie  
César Franck

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

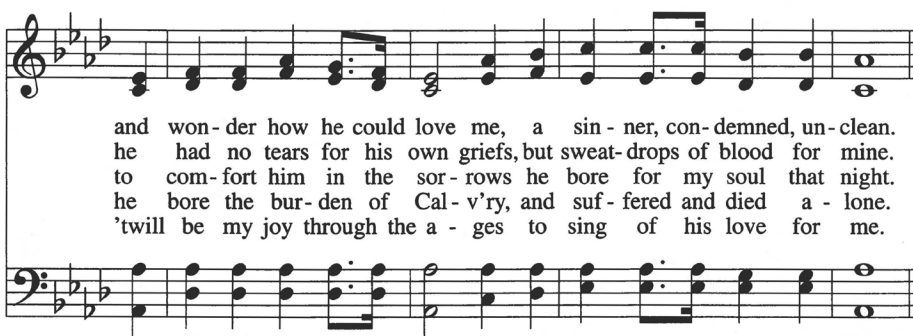
*Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.  
In addition, if you have prayer requests to be shared confidentially with the pastors,  
there is a prayer box located in the narthex, as well as slips of paper and a pen  
in the box's drawer for your use.*

## I Stand Amazed in the Presence

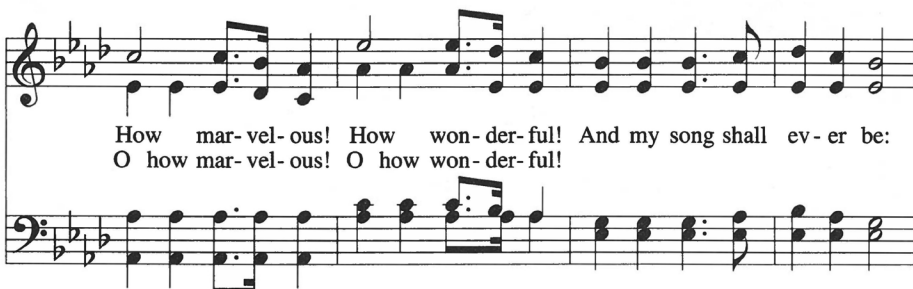
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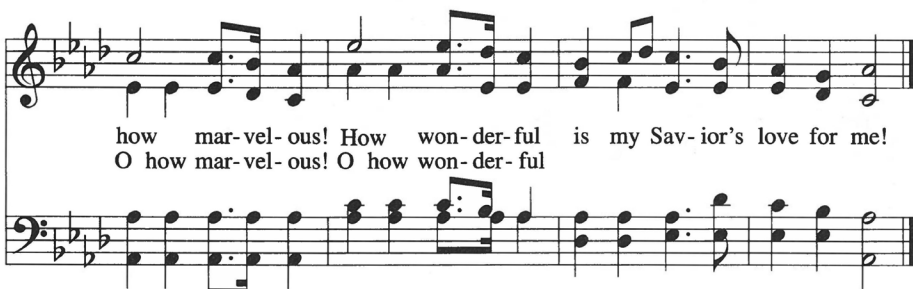
1 I stand a-mazed in the pres-ence of Je - sus the Naz - a - rene,  
 2 For me it was in the gar - den he prayed, "Not my will, but thine";  
 3 In pit - y an - gels be - held him and came from the world of light  
 4 He took my sins and my sor - rows, he made them his ver - y own;  
 5 When with the ran - somed in glo - ry his face I at last shall see,



and won - der how he could love me, a sin - ner, con - demned, un - clean.  
 he had no tears for his own griefs, but sweat - drops of blood for mine.  
 to com - fort him in the sor - rows he bore for my soul that night.  
 he bore the bur - den of Cal - v'ry, and suf - fered and died a - lone.  
 'twill be my joy through the a - ges to sing of his love for me.



How mar - vel - ous! How won - der - ful! And my song shall ev - er be:  
 O how mar - vel - ous! O how won - der - ful!



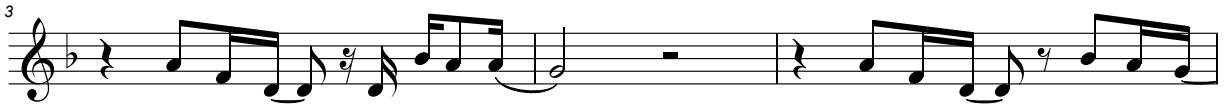
how mar - vel - ous! How won - der - ful is my Sav - ior's love for me!  
 O how mar - vel - ous! O how won - der - ful

# Take My Life

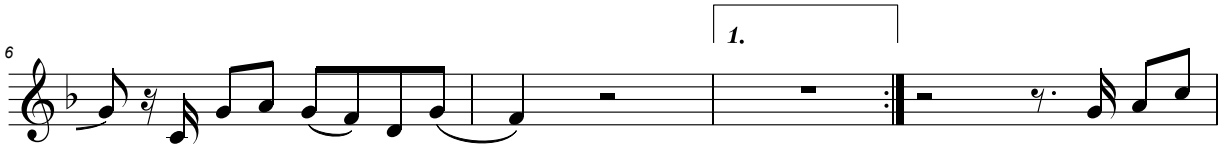
Scott Underwood



Ho - li - ness, ho - li - ness is what I long for.  
Faith - ful - ness, faith - ful - ness is what I long for.  
Right - eous - ness, right - eous - ness is what I long for.  
Brok - en - ness, brok - en - ness is what I long for.



Ho - li - ness is what I need. Ho - li - ness, ho - li - ness  
Faith - ful - ness is what I need. Faith - ful - ness, faith - ful - ness  
Right - eous - ness is what I need. Right - eous - ness, righteous - ness  
Brok - en - ness is what I need. Brok - en - ness, brok - en - ness



is what You want from me. So take my  
is what You want from me.  
is what You want from me.  
is what You want from me.



heart and form it and take my mind and trans - form it. and take my



will and con - form it to Yours, to Yours, O Lord.

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## 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 on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. 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 bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

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.

Yupik: *Nanrau mali Agayutvut, Nanrarlitgu pilimalriit  
Nanrarlitgu qilagmeInguut, Aata, qetunraq, Anerneqllu.*

Translation by Lucy Daniels and Wassilie Mute

Spanish: *A Dios el Padre celestial, al Hijo nuestro Redentor,  
y al eternal Consolador, uni dos todos alabad.*

Lingala: *E Njambe apesi bato nse, mpo mingi na Yosanjola,  
Na banje mpe tosambel, tata, Mwana, Molimo mpe.*

## 439 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled breast;  
 3 Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom - ised rest.  
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion, per - fect - ly re - stored in thee.



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
 Take a - way our bent to sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise! A - men.





# Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online! We're glad you're here.

## For your prayers this week:

- **Caitlin Hunt Brody**, Barbara and Francis Hunt's daughter, anticipating an extensive skin cancer operation this coming Wednesday
- **Lynn and Pete Pearson**, preparing to move to Covenant Living of Northbrook next month
- **Elizabeth Johnson**, mourning the passing of her father, Ken Johnson, on August 26
- **Terri Njaa**, currently in skilled nursing in Lake Geneva, WI, after multiple health challenges
- Art Thorson's nephew, **Matthew Carlson**, in need of a new kidney
- Terri Njaa and Sig Hulburt's sister, **Ingrid "Inky" Newlin**, hospitalized in Milwaukee and losing strength
- Marti Hindaileh's godson, **Brandon Baglayan**, recuperating after surgery related to his internal defibrillator
- **Craig Johnson**, Pastor Libby's dad, who is not healing in the ways he and his doctors had hoped
- **Tim Johnson and family**, as his brother, Darryl, is on hospice in Seattle

## Welcome to North Park Covenant Church! If



you're new here today, we invite you to scan the QR code at the left to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

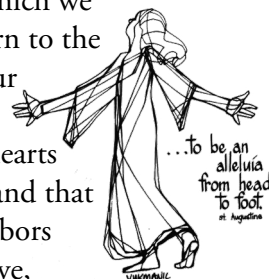
**Childcare is available** in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) for the full duration of the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

**Today is a Benevolence Sunday.** Members of the Deacon Board will be at the doors after the service to receive any donations to our benevolence fund, which is used to help those in need in our community.

**The September issue of *The Narthex***, our monthly newsletter, is available today in the narthex. Please feel free to pick up a copy!

## Neighborhood Prayer in 2024

As we enter the month of September and continue in prayer for the neighborhoods and communities in which we live and work, we return to the idea of praying with our hearts. This month, let us pray that our own hearts would be set to right, and that the hearts of our neighbors would be filled with love, peace, and joy; each heart softened to hear the Good News of Christ at work in their lives, as we long to hear it in our own lives and in the world.



*"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord, my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God." - Psalm 84:1-2*

**The current issue of the Covenant Prayer Calendar** is available for pick-up in the narthex today. Feel free to pick up a copy to pray through the coming year.

**The church office will be closed tomorrow**, September 2, in observance of Labor Day.

**Join us next Sunday, September 8, for our Fall Celebration Sunday!** We'll begin at 10:30 am for outdoor worship (weather permitting), followed by a block party and ministry fair! Enjoy a taco bar lunch, a bounce water house, fresh root beer (straight from the keg), and lots of fellowship and fun! Members and friends: If your last name begins with A-N, please bring a dessert to share; O-Z, please bring a salad to share—enough for your family plus 10 more. Invite your neighbors and friends! All are welcome!

As part of this year's Fall Celebration, we will again enjoy a Ministry Fair. This is an opportunity for lay leadership groups to share with both the congregation and its visitors about what individual boards, committees, and groups do, as well as how people might go about volunteering and/or getting involved. We are going to try something a bit different this year, though, and offer a digital means by which friends can demonstrate an interest in helping/serving/volunteering. If you are part of a board or committee and/or are the point person for a particular ministry, please read further:

**Students!**  
Bring your backpack  
to church next  
Sunday, September 8,  
for a special  
backpack blessing!

**Lectionary texts for  
Sunday, September 8:**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23  
Psalm 125  
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

to keep information in front of people. Names of interested people will then be sent to the appropriate board/committee/point person, by Pastor Libby or Pastor Jeff. The Google form will include ministry opportunities/events for the whole church (so, one form) and will be accessible via a QR code. Individual boards and committees, point people, PLEASE send to Pastor Libby any volunteer opportunities you want listed in that document no later than Tuesday, September 3.

B. If your boards/committees would still like to create a display board or physical sign-up sheets, they are welcome to display those on the 8th as well—we will have tables available. Please come with your materials ready to go!

**Sunday School for all ages begins on September 15!** Please take a moment to register your children (preschool through 6th grade) for our Sunday morning gatherings! We meet each week from 9:15-10:15 in the junior chapel (just off of the parlors) for singing and sharing, learning and fun. We'd love to have your kids with us!!



**We will commission our lay leaders on Sunday, September 15.** If you are a lay leader in any area of the church, please be sure to be in church that Sunday so we can recognize and commission you!

**Join us in welcoming Sam Parnin!** Please join us on Sunday, September 15, following worship for a special coffee hour to welcome Sam Parnin, our new organist!

**School Supplies Appreciated:** As the new school year begins, the Board of Community Concern is asking for your help in providing school supplies for Hibbard and Peterson elementary schools. If you would like to donate over the next two Sundays, we invite you to bring any of the following items to the box marked for school supply donations in the narthex:

- #2 Pencils – Ticonderoga brand is preferred.
- Crayola crayons – 24 count
- Wide-ruled, loose-leaf paper (no college-ruled, please)
- Rectangular pencil erasers
- Crayola colored pencils – 12 or 24 count
- Expo black dry erase markers
- Glue sticks
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant wipes
- Card stock or construction paper

**It is soon time for our semiannual virtual prayer vigil,** praying in the comfort of your own home for half an hour using provided prayer materials. This has been an exciting year in our church. Being that prayer is considered foundation-building in any church, all who have participated in the past are strong builders of that foundation on which we lean so heavily! Come join us again on Saturday, September 21. For our spring vigil, every slot was filled! Let's make that happen again this fall by [signing up here](#). You will receive your prayer material by the end of the day on Friday, September 20. Let's come together boldly in prayer on September 21!

**Does your pet need blessing?** Our annual pet blessing is open to pets and people of all kinds! Come to the south garden on Saturday, September 21, at 10 am with your favorite non-human friend for this time of blessing and fellowship.

**Save the date to save lives!** On September 21, from 10 am to 2 pm, we will host a blood drive through [Versiti](#). Appointments are strongly encouraged, so [please click here to sign up](#). Every donation is needed to meet the high demand from hospitals in our community. You can make a difference. We hope to see you there!

**Volunteers are needed** for childcare and hospitality! If you're able to help out in the toddler room or by serving refreshments after Sunday worship, please [sign up for a Sunday or two by clicking here](#).

## 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 2 - Labor Day - Office Closed*

- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
- 7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

### *Tuesday, September 3*

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 7 pm Adult Bible Study (Art Room)

### *Wednesday, September 4*

- 9 am NPCCP Teacher Meet & Greet (South Garden)

### *Thursday, September 5*

- 8 am East Wall Project Progress Meeting (Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7 pm NPCCP Orientation (Parlors)

### *Saturday, September 7*

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10:30 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

### *Sunday, September 8*

- 10:30 am Outdoor Worship (South Garden)
- 12 pm Fall Celebration and Block Party (South Garden & along Christiana)
- 6 pm Youth Group Parent Meeting (Parlors)
- 7 pm High-school Youth Group (The Attic Youth Room)
- AA Meeting (South Chapel)

