

February 18, 2024
First Sunday in Lent

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Leading people to become
faithful followers of Jesus Christ
together in God's world

*God said, "This is the sign of the covenant
that I make between me and you and every
living creature that is with you,
for all future generations.*

Genesis 9:12



Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Parish Associates

Music

Ministry Directors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Dr. Quinn Fox
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Dr. Nancy Fox
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)
Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)
Jill Meek (Children)
Leslie Saum (Connections)

EVENTS AT NATIONAL

For more information about all our events, please visit the [Events page](#) on our website at nationalpres.org. Questions? Email us at info@nationalpres.org!

Lenten Small Groups - begin this week It's not too late to sign up!

Interested in deepening your walk with God? Join a short-term small group discussion of our Lenten sermon series on God's Persistent Love. In-person and online groups will explore Old Testament revelations of God's faithfulness and how our response can transform us. Please visit our [Small Groups](#) webpage to register today.

Military Ministry Meeting

Today, February 18, 12:15 pm

Garden Rooms

Our speaker will be our very own SSG Ethan Greene, accomplished singer, member of The US Army Chorus and the NPC Choir. Lunch will be served and all are invited!

Mission Trip to Romania Information Session

Today, February 18, 12:30 pm

Room 109

Come and hear about the work God is doing in Romania! For over 30 years, The Smiles Foundation has cared for vulnerable communities in western Romania. Join us in Room 109 to hear from Kevin Hoy, the Founder and Executive Director of Smiles, and learn more about our intergenerational mission trip to Romania in August. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards at jedwards@nationalpres.org.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, February 18

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Military Ministry Meeting
- 12:30 pm: Mission Trip to Romania Information Session

Monday, February 19

- Church and Offices are closed

Saturday, February 24

- 10:00 am; NPC Festival Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm: Sticky Faith Parenting Seminar

Sunday, February 25

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Sticky Faith Parenting Seminar Saturday, February 24, 5:00 pm

Come discover the most pressing questions our young people are asking and how you can help them discover Jesus-centered answers to those questions. We'll hear from Andy Jung, the Senior Director of Church Engagement at the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI), and have dinner with other parents who are also seeking to raise faithful kids. Childcare will be provided (with advance RSVP). Suggested donation for dinner is \$15. Contact Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org) or visit the events page for more information.

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ OPENING SONG My Worth Is Not In What I Own Fernando Ortega

My worth is not in what I own, not in the strength of flesh and bone.
But in the costly wounds of love... at the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name, in win or lose, in pride or shame.
But in the blood of Christ that flowed... at the cross.

*I rejoice in my Redeemer, greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in him, no other, my soul is satisfied in him alone.*

As summer flowers we fade and die. Fame, youth, and beauty hurry by.
But life eternal calls to us... at the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might, or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ... at the cross. **Chorus**

Two wonders here that I confess: my worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed, my ransom paid...at the cross. **Chorus**

My soul is satisfied in him a - lone.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

God of love, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done, we have sinned in ignorance, in weakness, and through our own deliberate fault. We therefore turn in sorrow to you and humbly repent. Forgive us, and renew our lives, for the sake of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Nettleton

Glory be to God the Father, glory also to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One;

As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be;

Alleluia and thanksgiving, now and through eternity.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Rev. Larsen

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and
buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-17

Elder John Neely

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.'

¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Larsen

*Children ages 5 to 5th grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

SERMON

*Experiencing God's Persistent Love
From Chaos to Covenant*

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Nancy Fox

You may bring your gift forward during the offering song.

▲ OFFERING SONG

Reckless Love

Cory Asbury

Before I spoke a word, you were singing over me.

You have been so, so good to me.

Before I took a breath, you breathed your life in me.

You have been so, so kind to me.

O the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.

O it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine.

I couldn't earn it. I don't deserve it. Still, you give yourself away.

O the overwhelming, never-ending reckless, love of God.

When I was your foe, still your love fought for me. You have been so, so good to me.

When I felt no worth, you paid it all for me. You have been so, so kind to me.

Chorus

▲ DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Fox

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 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.

▲ CLOSING SONG

May the Peoples Praise You

Townend and Getty

You have called us out of darkest night, into your glorious light,
that we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ.

May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad!

All your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus.

May our ev'ry breath retell the grace that broke into our strife
with boundless love and deepest joy, with endless life. **Chorus** (2x)

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Hylton

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE A Love So Fierce and Free: A Litany David Ashley White
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN Our Song Forever Shall Record *Winchester New*

Our song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord;
God's faithfulness will we proclaim that ev'ry age may know his name.
We sing of mercies that endure, forever builded, ever sure.
Of faithfulness that never dies, established changeless in the skies.
Behold God's truth and grace displayed for us in faithful cov'nant made:
A bow in heav'n to e'er reveal an everlasting sign and seal.
God's faithful promise shall endure in lasting cov'nant strong, secure;
Perpetual, certain, permanent, established o'er the firmament.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Winchester New*

Almighty God, your lofty throne has mercy for its cornerstone,
And shining bright before your face are truth and love and boundless grace.

CONFESSON OF SIN *in unison*

God of love, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done, we have sinned in ignorance, in weakness, and through our own deliberate fault. We therefore turn in sorrow to you and humbly repent. Forgive us, and renew our lives, for the sake of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Savior.

SILENT CONFESSON AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed Rev. Larsen

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-17

Jane Stringfellow

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.'

¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Larsen

*Children ages 5 to 5th grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

SERMON

*Experiencing God's Persistent Love
From Chaos to Covenant*

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Morning Song

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports all in distress,
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Nancy Fox

OFFERTORY

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov

Bless the Lord, O my soul. (Blessed art thou, O Lord.)

Bless the Lord, O my soul. (Bless the Lord and forget not all his benefits.)

Bless the Lord, O my soul. (Let all that is within me bless his holy name.)

He is gracious and plentiful in mercy. He crowneth thee with lovingkindness.

He will not ever accuse, nor keep his wrath forever.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. (Let all that is within me bless his holy name.)

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

from Psalm 103

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Litany of Ministry

There are different gifts,

But it is one and the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through people in different ways,

But it is the same God who achieves his purpose through them all.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit

To use it for the common good.

Constitutional Questions

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

Prayer of the Congregation

God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation, give us courage and discipline to follow you where your servants rightly lead us, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds, and show your love to the world, through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.

▲ DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Fox

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 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.

▲ HYMN

Now Praise the Lord

St. Anne

Now praise the Lord, all living saints, sing praises that endure.

Our children God does surely bless, our future is secure.

God's life-filled Word brings order to the chaos of our days.

In love he claims us as his own: What better cause for praise?

In loving covenant we find God's purposes revealed:

The ills of earth and human hearts redemptively are healed.

O praise the Lord, all living saints, sing praises that endure.

Now and forever, unto life eternally secure.

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Fox

▲ POSTLUDE

My Jesus Calls to Me, Op. 122, No. 1

Johannes Brahms
Todd Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

All worship services are in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch](#) webpage.

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School for all ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship

Spring 2024 Adult Sunday School

The spring Adult Sunday School classes have begun. For class descriptions and more information please visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#). It's not too late to join!

- **Alpha Marriage Course:**
Couple Facilitators, Garden Room A
- **The Border and Beyond: Migration and Immigration in the Mission of God:** Nancy Fox, Jonathan Edwards, and Lewrene Glaser, Room 209
- **Paul's Epistle to the Romans:**
R.V. Seep, Chapel and online
- **God's Plan of Redemption Through History:** Dr. Quinn Fox, Parlor
- **Exploring Luke's Gospel:** Margaret Gardner, Donna Duss and others, Garden Room C
- **Parent Gathering:** Kristin Franke and others, Jones Hall

Childcare

The Nursery rooms are available 8:30 am

Youth Sunday School

Visit our [Youth webpage](#) for information about Sunday School and other youth events. Youth grades 6-12, please come to the Multipurpose Building for Sunday School. We'll meet there briefly then split to smaller groups by age.

Children's Sunday School

Visit our [Children's webpage](#) to read about our Children's Ministry.

- Children ages 2-3 years have Sunday School in the Toddler Room in the main church building.
- Children age 4 through 5th grade meet for Sunday School in the Education Building (National Presbyterian School).



Prayer Cards

May we pray for you? Prayer cards are in the Guestbook and may be left in the collection plate or the Prayer Box in the Welcome Center.

**Called
to Care**

Call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Jeremiah 29:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 2, 8:00 am

All men are invited to join us in-person on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Our speaker will be Gregg Gochnour, presenting: *"Jesus' Great Invitation: Come and See."* Please email grow@nationalpres.org for more information or to RSVP.

Prepare for Marriage Workshop

Saturday, March 16, 8:45 am to 3:00 pm

Learn the skills you'll need to thrive in your marriage during this one-day course. This annual program is open to anyone; it is required for those who plan to be married at NPC. Please contact Wray Muoio to register or for more information at wmuoio@nationalpres.org or 202-537-7540.

Per Capita Assessment

The National Capital Presbytery has set the per capita rate at \$48.56 per person, this is the amount that NPC pays for each active member in our congregation. If you would like to share you can give this amount by check, cash, or by scanning the QR Code below.



Call for Singers

Mozart Requiem

The National Presbyterian Church

Festival Choir & Orchestra

A Church / Community Chorus

Performance: 5 pm March 24 Palm Sunday

Preliminary Rehearsals on Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm:

February 24, March 2, 9, 16

Final Rehearsals on:

Friday, March 22, 7 pm – 10 pm

Saturday, March 23, 10 am – 2 pm

Bärenreiter scores available for nominal fee

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

New to National? Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for being here today! Please stop by the Welcome Center just outside the sanctuary. We would love to meet you, and we have a gift for you! Here are some other easy ways to connect with us:

- Sign the guestbook in the pews or online on our [Watch webpage](#).
- Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website or info@nationalpres.org.

Children and Youth E-newsletters

If you have little ones or youth in your household and would like to receive our updates, please:

- Visit our [Children's webpage](#) for kids up to 5th grade.
- Visit our [Youth webpage](#) for kids in middle and high school.

Prayers

We pray:

That God would bless our new elders and deacons with wisdom and compassion.

We pray for:

The Persecuted Church which consists of millions of Christians across the world who are denied their rights, imprisoned, tortured or martyred for their faith.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,
careoffice@nationalpres.org
202.537.7540.

Community Health Note

Masks are optional at our services, with the exception of the lectern-side transept (at the front on your right), where masks are required.

Our ushers are happy to guide you to your preferred seating area.

Your Giving and Commitments

Make a Difference

Thank you! Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ at this critical time.

You can support the general ministry of National:

- Go to nationalpres.org/giving
- Text "NPC" to 833.414.9444
- Scan the QR code below:



If you haven't made your 2024 commitment, cards are available in the narthex or you can scan the QR code below to make your commitment online.



For help or questions about giving, please contact our Finance Office at 202.537.7495 or email our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine at lskrine@nationalpres.org.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Dianne and John Tingley in loving memory of their parents, David and Audrey Rhea, and Ethel and Stuart Tingley.



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