

March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*"But this is the covenant that I will make with the
house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my law within them, and I will write it
on their hearts; and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people."
Jeremiah 31:33*



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)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT NATIONAL

For more information about all of our Lenten and Easter events, please visit our [Easter page](#), accessible on the home page of our website.

To view any of our services, please join us on our [watch webpage](#).

Palm Sunday, March 24

Worship at 8:45 & 11:00 am

Join us for worship and celebrate Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. Children are invited to take part in the palm processional, leading the way into worship during the opening song. Kids, simply arrive a few minutes early to worship where Children's Ministry Directors will meet you with palm branches and instructions.

Palm Sunday Prayer Gathering Sunday, March 24, 9:55 am, Chapel

We invite you to a prayer gathering on Palm Sunday in the Chapel between worship services. This will be a rich time of prayer and reflection to center our hearts and open ourselves to see what God wants us to learn or experience this Holy Week.

Mozart Requiem

National Presbyterian Church
Festival Choir & Orchestra
Palm Sunday Performance of This and
Other Beautiful Works
Sunday, March 24 at 5 pm
No tickets required - Freewill offering
Bring Your Family and Friends!

Maundy Thursday Worship Service March 28, 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter, commemorating the day when Jesus celebrated his Last Supper, washed the feet of his disciples and commanded them to do the same for each other.

Good Friday Worship Service March 29, 7:00 pm

On Good Friday we will share in reflections in word and music on the seven last words of Christ.

Easter Worship Services

March 31, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am

Rejoice with us in the resurrection of our Lord! Celebrate the Lord's triumphant resurrection with us on Easter Sunday at worship in-person in the Sanctuary and online on our [watch webpage](#). *He is not here; for he is risen, as he said.* Matthew 28:6. Come and discover that this is the best news of all!

After Worship Services, Easter Sunday: Coffee, Cookies and Easter Garden

Everyone is invited to come down to Stone Fellowship Hall after any of the worship services for coffee, cookies, and fellowship with family and friends. The beautiful Easter Garden display provides a wonderful opportunity to have keepsake photos taken by our complimentary professional photographer.

Children & Easter

- Childcare is available for children age 4 and under from 8:15am-12:45pm (including a Bible story and activities in the toddler room during 8:30am and 10:00am worship).
- "Children's Chapel" for children age 5 to 5th grade takes place during the sermon at 8:30am and 10:00am worship.
- An Easter Egg Hunt for pre-K to 5th grade follows the 8:30am service (in the garden) and the 10:00am service (on the school playground).

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 Who You Say I Am Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost but he brought me in, Oh his love for me! Oh his love for me!

Chorus 1:

Who the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes I am!

Free at last, he has ransomed me, his grace runs deep.

While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, he died for me! **Chorus 1**

Chorus 2:

In my Father's house there's a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am!

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who you say I am!

You are for me, not against me. I am who you say I am! (2x) **Chorus 1, Chorus 2 (2x)**

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, in your mercy take away from me my sins,
and kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit.

Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you,
a heart to follow and enjoy you, for Christ's sake.

St. Ambrose of Milan

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Elder Fred Byus

³¹"The days are surely coming", says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband", says the Lord. ³³"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days", says the Lord: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest", says the Lord; "for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more".

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Jill Meek

Director of Children's Ministry

*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
Renovation of the Heart*

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,
or place it in an offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary.*

▲ OFFERING SONG

Build My Life

Matt Redman

Worthy of every song we could ever sing. Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for you!

Jesus, the name above every other name. Jesus the only one that could ever save.

Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for you! We live for you!

Holy, there is no one like you! There is none beside you.

Open up my eyes in wonder! And show me who you are.

And fill me with your heart and lead me in your love to those around me.

I will build my life upon your love. It is a firm foundation.

I will put my trust in you alone and I will not be shaken. (2x) **Chorus (2x)**

▲ 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

His Mercy Is More

Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?

Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum.

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?

What Father, so tender, is calling us home?

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, his mercy is more.

Stronger than darkness, new every morn.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

What riches of kindness he lavished on us.

His blood was the payment; his life was the cost.

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more. **Chorus** (2x)

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more. **Chorus**

▲ 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

Variations on "Wondrous Love"

Russell Schulz-Widmar
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it: Mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my *Ebenezer**, hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

*stone of help

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

To God, our strength, shout joyfully,
To Jacob's God shout triumphing.
Take up a psalm, and timbrel bring,
The pleasant harp with psalterie.
Jehovah, God of thee, I AM,
Which thee ascending up did guide
From land of Egypt. Open wide
Thy mouth and I will fill the same.

from Psalm 81

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, in your mercy take away from me my sins,
and kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit.
Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you,
a heart to follow and enjoy you, for Christ's sake.

St. Ambrose of Milan

SILENT CONFESSION AND KYRIE *sung first by the choir, then the congregation*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Elder Charlotte McPherson

³¹"The days are surely coming", says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband", says the Lord. ³³"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days", says the Lord: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest", says the Lord; "for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more".

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Jill Meek

Director of Children's Ministry

*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
Renovation of the Heart

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Kingsfold

O for a heart to praise our God, and full of love divine;
Steadfast and right and pure and good—a copy, Lord, of thine.
Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart, come quickly from above;
Write thy true law upon our hearts, thy new best law of love.

Charles Wesley, alt.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Nancy Fox

OFFERTORY

To Know Thee

Hank Beebe

To know thee is the goal my heart has set, to know thee is its greatest prize,
To know thee, though I feel that we have met on dark roads where sadness lies,
To know thee when the storms of life increase, and I see no sheltered landing.
To know thee in a time of quiet peace that passes my understanding,
To know thee is to come to know the truth, the truth that will set me free;
I know not where my growing faith will lead, or how I may react in word and deed;
I do know that I have a crying need to know thee.
To know thee is to know how I should pray, to know thee is a prayer complete.
To know thee is to finally find my way with thy bright lamp unto my feet.
To know thee is at first to know thy name, and speak it as one confessing,
And finding that the mention of thy name re-echoes as a blessing.
To know thee is to know my deepest self, to know thee uncovers me.
I know of fame and fortune far and wide, I know of the rewards that they provide,
I know that I would cast them all aside to know thee.

▲ 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. Amen.

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 525

Here I Am, Lord

Here I Am

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Tallis' Canon

O God most merciful and true, thy nature to our souls impart;
Within us place thy cov'nant new: thy perfect law upon the heart.

Charles Wesley, alt

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Fox

▲ POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in A minor

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](#).

- ***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

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).

Childcare

The Nursery rooms are available 8:30 am until noon for infants to walkers, up to age 4.

Everyday Life can be Complicated!

We can all feel stressed out sometimes. Did you know that we have "Care Notes", simple articles addressing life's everyday challenges, available in our Welcome Center resource rack? The encouragement in these helpful booklets can give a boost to you or a friend, and are free for everyone. Stop by and take a look!



**Called
to Care**

Experiencing the challenges and opportunities of aging?

NPC partners with the non-profit IONA senior services, which has a geriatric social worker available to help our church family. Preliminary consultations are free. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

Let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.
Galatians 6:10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Our Easter Welcome Team

Easter is just around the corner and we are looking for friendly volunteers to serve as a warm and welcoming presence. As our church community gathers to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, your service is crucial to making our Easter celebration a success. To join our Easter Welcome Team, please visit our [Serve at Church page](#). You can also contact Leslie Saum directly at LSaum@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7494 for more information.

Easter Dedication Flowers

Would you like to honor or remember a loved one by supporting NPC's Easter flower displays? You will find Flower Ministry envelopes on the tables outside the sanctuary. You may make your donation to NPC by check or online, noting "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Women's Ministry Lunch Saturday, April 6, 12:00 pm Stone Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to the Women's Ministry Lunch. This noon fellowship gathering will be a time of prayer and praise as we celebrate a year of growing deeper roots in Christ and commitment to one another. Please join us for delicious food and faith-filled conversation. [Registration](#) is available on the NPC website.

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturday, April 13, In-person

Becoming a church member here at NPC can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the one-day in-person Pathway of Christian Discipleship class on Saturday, April 13. For more information, and to register by April 3, contact Kemet Rakiatu at krakiatu@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7578.

Vacation Bible School

Sign up today!

Join us for "Scuba" VBS, June 24-28 from 9:30am-12:30pm. Children age 4 to rising 5th grade are invited to explore the depths of God's love through Bible stories, music, crafts, games, service, and more. We also need adult volunteers to lead crews of campers or activity stations. To sign up or learn more, contact Jill Meek at jmeek@nationalpres.org.

Youth Group Dinners

On Sunday nights, our youth group meets for dinner and fellowship. We're always grateful for those who would be willing to provide a simple meal and spend time in fellowship eating with us! For more details, contact Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org).

Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 17

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

Friday, March 22

- 7:00 pm: Festival Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, March 23

- 10:00 am: Festival Choir Rehearsal

Palm Sunday, March 24 - Communion

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 9:55 am: Prayer gathering, Chapel
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm: Festival Choir & Orchestra Concert - *Mozart Requiem*
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

JOIN OUR NPC TEAM!

Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

National Presbyterian Church is searching for an Executive Assistant to provide administrative support to the church's Senior Pastor. The successful candidate will have excellent organizational skills, be a strong communicator and self-starter. Day-to-day responsibilities include managing the Pastor's schedule and correspondence, coordinating Church meetings, partnering with church committees and providing administrative support. The position will serve as the primary interface and receptionist for the Senior Pastor to the congregation, staff, and public. The position is full-time and includes comprehensive benefits. Occasional weekend work may be needed to support church functions. Qualified applicants should send a resume to npcfadlrsearch@gmail.com.

Associate for Young Adult and Youth Ministries

NPC is searching for an Associate for Young Adult and Youth Ministries. The successful candidate will have an innovative spirit and relational heart for developing new, sustainable models of ministry to young professionals in our congregation, and supporting the existing youth ministry programming. To apply, please send a resume, cover letter, and a list of 3 references to kfranke@nationalpres.org.

Church Hospitality Coordinator

The Church Hospitality Coordinator plays a pivotal role in ensuring that all church events, from Sunday services to special occasions, are marked by a warm, welcoming atmosphere for fellowship. The ideal candidate will organize excellent hospitality services at church events, fostering a warm and nurturing environment for all who enter our doors. The Church Hospitality Coordinator is a full time position under the supervision of the Director of Facilities, and is not exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The anticipated work schedule is Saturday through Wednesday with some flexibility. Qualified applicants should send a resume to recruiting@nationalpres.org.

NOTES

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 mourn:

the passing of Craig Messner.

We pray for:

Martha's Table, as they engage the DC community in developing sustainable solutions to poverty.

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 and in memory of Mrs. Ruth Olive Rottstedt Anderson by her son, Mr. J. Theodore Anderson.



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