

April 14, 2024

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your
fingers, the moon and the stars that you have
established; what are human beings that you are
mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?*

Psalm 8:3-4



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!

Join us for our sermon series:

Questions Everyone Asks:

Discovering God, Purpose, and Truth

**Invite friends to join us on Sundays
as we consider some of life's
big questions together.
8:45 and 11:00 am services**

- Does God exist?
- Does life have a bigger purpose?
- Why does God allow pain and suffering?
- Is Christianity too narrow?
- Is Jesus really God?
- Is the Bible reliable?
- How can I know God personally?

Christianity Explored

Four weeks starting May 19

Room 109

If you wouldn't call yourself a Christian or you're not sure what you believe, Christianity Explored is for you. Please join us for interesting discussion in a relaxed setting. To find out more or sign up email christianityexplored@nationalpres.org or visit the [Events page](#) on the [NPC website](#).

Great Day of Service

Saturday, May 18, 9:30 am-1:00 pm

You're invited to join us on the Great Day of Service, when friends and neighbors will come together to serve our city and those encountering food insecurity around the world. People of all ages are invited to help pack meal kits, tutor kids in reading and math, collect food and clothing, or work with Habitat for Humanity. Everyone is welcome. To sign up now, please visit the [Registration Form](#) or go to the [Events Page](#) for more information.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making

Come to [Stone Fellowship Hall](#) today after the 11am worship service to make sandwiches for [Martha's Table](#). McKenna's Wagon, by Martha's Table, delivers food to the hungry on the streets of DC every day of the year. This is a great event for the whole family!

NPC Small Groups

This Eastertide, continue to deepen your walk with Christ in a small group! NPC has weekly in-person and online groups that welcome new members. They include sermon series discussions and Bible studies. If you are interested in visiting any of these, please see our [Small Groups webpage](#) to get connected.

The Saturday small group Bible study, which meets weekly at NPC at 8:30 a.m. in room 106, is just diving into the book of Isaiah. Join in!

Interested in International Affairs?

Are you interested in international affairs and the Lord's work overseas? NPC has three committees involved in international ministry: Building up the Global Church, Caring for the Vulnerable, and Proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior. If you would like to be part of this dynamic work, please contact Jonathan Edwards at jedwards@nationalpres.org or Stephanie Eshelman at eshelmansk@gmail.com. Each of these committees welcomes new members.

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 All Creatures of Our God and King arr. David Crowder

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing:

O praise him, alleluia!

Thou, burning sun with golden beam, thou, silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou, rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

O praise him, alleluia!

Thou, rising moon in praise rejoice! Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless! And worship him in humbleness.

O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit—Three in One!

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O alleluia, alleluia! (3x) O alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

In confidence of your great goodness, O Lord, we draw near to you: As those sick to the Healer, as those hungry and thirsty to the Fountain of life, as creatures to the Creator, as desolate souls to their own tender Comforter. In you is everything we can or ought to desire. Forgive us when in disobedience we turn from you. You alone are our salvation and redemption, our Helper and our strength.

Thomas à Kempis

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

- SCRIPTURE Psalm 8:1-9 Lisa Stucky
- ¹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You have set your glory above the heavens.
²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your
 foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.
³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars that you have established;
⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?
⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
 and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under their feet,
⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
⁹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
- The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

- A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Melanie Lenhard
 Associate Director for 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 Questions Everyone Asks: Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
 Does God Exist?

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. Kerry Stoltzfus

*You may bring your gift forward during the offering song,
 or place it in an offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary.*

▲ OFFERING SONG Jesus Messiah Chris Tomlin

He became sin, who knew no sin that we might become his righteousness.
He humbled himself and carried the cross! Love so amazing! Love so amazing!

*Jesus Messiah, Name above all names, Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.*

His body, the bread, his blood, the wine broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing! Love so amazing, yeah! **Chorus**

All our hope is in you! All our hope is in you!
All the glory to you, God, the light of the world! **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. Stoltzfus

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 Across the Lands Keith Getty and Stuart Towensend

You're the Word of God the Father, from before the world began;
ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of your voice:
let the skies declare your glory, let the land and seas rejoice!

*You're the Author of creation, you're the Lord of ev'ry one;
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

Yet you left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry, with a word you stilled the sea.
Yet how silently you suffered that the guilty may go free. **Chorus**

With a shout you rose victorious, wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven leading captives in your wake.
Now you stand before the Father interceding for your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation you are leading sinners home. **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 Toccata and Fugue in F Major, BuxWV 157 Dieterich Buxtehude
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

HYMN 455 verses 1-5 All Creatures of Our God and King *Lasst uns erfreuen*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn 455, verse 6

All creatures, your Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness:

O sing ye! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

In confidence of your great goodness, O Lord, we draw near to you: As those sick to the Healer, as those hungry and thirsty to the Fountain of life, as creatures to the Creator, as desolate souls to their own tender Comforter. In you is everything we can or ought to desire. Forgive us when in disobedience we turn from you. You alone are our salvation and redemption, our Helper and our strength.

Thomas à Kempis

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Larsen

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

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

Psalm 8:1-9

Edward Blanton

¹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Melanie Lenhard

Associate Director for 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

Questions Everyone Asks:
Does God Exist?

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

HYMN 163

Gott sei Dank durch alle Welt

verse 1 **Choir**, verse 4 **Congregation**

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

OFFERTORY

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Tom Fettke

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers; the moon and stars
suspended in space:

O what is man, that you are mindful of him?

You have given us a crown of glory and honor, and have made us a little lower than the angels.

You have put us in charge of all creation: The beasts of the fields, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.

But what is man that you are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of your name transcends the earth and fills the heavens.

O Lord, our God, little children praise you perfectly, and so would we.

Alleluia! Alleluia! The majesty and glory of your name! Alleluia! Alleluia!

with Eric Sabatino, harp

- ▲ 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. Stoltzfus
 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 How Great Thou Art *O store Gud*
 O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hands have made,
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:
Refrain
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"
 When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
 When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:
 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin.
 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"
- ▲ BENEDICTION Dr. Hylton
- ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Dr. Stoltzfus
- ▲ POSTLUDE Psalm 19 *Benedetto Marcello*
The heavens are telling the glory of God.
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

Childcare

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

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).



Overwhelmed and not sure where to turn?

Rev. Lisa Larsen is available to meet with you to think through difficult situations. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

*Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 at kfranke@nationalpres.org.

You can make a difference!

You are invited to make a dramatic impact here at church on Sunday mornings – join the fantastic Welcome Team! We have opportunities for Greeters, Ushers and Connection Hosts – all that is required is a smiling face and heart for sharing God's love. Sign up by completing the [Registration Form](#). For more information visit the [Events Page](#) or contact Leslie Saum via lsaum@nationalpres.org or 202-537-7494.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, April 14

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: 2nd Sunday Sandwich making
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Sunday, April 21

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

Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)

Sunday, May 5 at 5:00 pm

Calling all 4th & 5th graders—Club 45 is just for you! At Club 45, we grow in faith and friendship. Come hang out, play games, and have some devotional time. It is also a great place to invite friends! Club 45 meets once per month, on Sundays, 5:00-6:15 pm at the Youth House. If you are interested in attending, please contact jmeek@nationalpres.org or check our [Events page](#) for more information and meeting dates.

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 npcfadirsearch@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 Office Manager

The Church Office Manager plays a crucial role in the daily operations of the church, providing administrative support to the pastoral staff, ministry teams, and church members. This position is responsible for managing the church office, coordinating events, and ensuring a welcoming environment for all who visit or contact the church. The ideal candidate will have excellent organizational skills and a heart for service within a faith-based community. Qualified applicants should send a resume to recruiting@nationalpres.org.

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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 celebrate with:

Sam and Sarah Fosdick
on the birth of their son.

We pray for:

Habitat DC/NOVA,
as they work to reduce poverty and homelessness in our community by providing affordable homes for those in need.

How may we pray for you?

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

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 this morning are given to the glory of God and in memory of the life of Michael James Pickett by J. Theodore Anderson.



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