

March 23, 2025  
Third Sunday of Lent

Welcome to  
**NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.*  
Psalm 51:10



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](http://nationalpres.org). Questions? Email us at [info@nationalpres.org](mailto:info@nationalpres.org)!

## **Fellowship and Ideas - Come and share your perspectives.**

**Sunday, April 6 at 12:30 pm**

### **Stone Fellowship Hall**

The Strategic Planning Team would love to connect and hear your ideas and aspirations for the future of NPC in an informal gathering following the 11:00 am worship service.

## **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 on this joyful day! As we welcome hundreds of regulars and newcomers to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we want to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and valued. Whether you are greeting attendees at the door, directing them to seating, or assisting with other needs, your service is crucial to making our Easter celebration a success. To join our Easter Welcome Team, please visit our [Serve at Church page](#) or [click here](#). You can also contact Leslie Saum ([lsaum@nationalpres.org](mailto:lsaum@nationalpres.org)) directly at 202-537-7494 for more information.

## **Week at a Glance**

For information about all of these events, please see the [Events page](#) on our website.

### **Sunday, March 23**

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

### **Wednesday, March 26**

- 7:00 pm: Young Professionals Bible Study

### **Sunday, March 30**

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

## **Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturday, April 26 at 9:00 am Garden Rooms**

Right now is an exciting time to learn about what God is doing here at NPC! To inquire about church membership or just learn more about Christian faith, come to this one-day class on April 26. For more info or to register by April 19, visit our [Events webpage](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu ([KRakiatu@NationalPres.org](mailto:KRakiatu@NationalPres.org)) at 202-537-7578.

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER EVENTS

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

## **Palm Sunday, April 13**

- Worship: 8:45 & 11:00 am
- Concert: Brahms *Requiem*, 5:00 pm

## **Maundy Thursday, April 17**

- Hands-on Prayer Stations: 3:00-7:00 pm
- Worship with Communion: 7:00 pm

## **Good Friday, April 18**

- Hands-on Prayer Stations: 3:00-7:00 pm
- Meditations & Music on the Seven Last Words of Christ: 7:00 pm

## **Easter Sunday, April 20**

- Worship: 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30 am
- Easter Egg Hunt:  
after 8:30 & 10:00 am worship

# 8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

▲ OPENING SONG Give Me Jesus Jeremy Camp

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,  
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

Spiritual

When I am alone, when I am alone,  
O when I am alone, give me Jesus.

*Give me Jesus. Give me Jesus! You can have all this world, just give me Jesus.*

When I come to die, when I come to die,  
O when I come to die, give me Jesus.

*Give me Jesus. Give me Jesus! You can have all this world.*

*You can have all this world. You can have all this world, just give me Jesus!*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Dr. Hylton

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, the house of my soul is narrow;  
enlarge it that you may enter in.

It is in ruins;  
please repair it.

It is displeasing to you;  
I know and acknowledge this.

But to whom can I call for help  
to clean and repair it but you?

Cleanse me from my secret faults and sins, O Lord,  
and spare your servant.

St. Augustine of Hippo

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                      Dr. Hylton  
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                      Dr. Hylton

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE                      Psalm 51:1-12                      Nathan Bodger  
*Pew Bible Page 452*

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES                      Dr. Hylton

*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.  
Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.*

SERMON                      *Prescriptions for Wounded Souls*                      Rev. Lisa Larsen  
God's Mercy and Human Failure

### 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                      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.

▲ 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 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

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: O his love for me! O his love for me!

*Who the Son sets free, O 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!

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

*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)

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

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

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

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Larsen

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

- PRELUDE O God, Thou Righteous God Johannes Brahms  
Op. 122, No. 7 Todd Fickley, organ
- CHIMES
- CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
- ▲ HYMN 303 *verses 1-3* Jesus, Lover of My Soul *Aberystwyth*
- ▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Dr. Hylton
- ▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn 303, verse 4  
Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;  
Let the healing streams abound; make me, keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;  
Spring thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity. Charles Wesley
- CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Dr. Hylton  
O Lord, the house of my soul is narrow;  
enlarge it that you may enter in.  
It is in ruins;  
please repair it.  
It is displeasing to you;  
I know and acknowledge this.  
But to whom can I call for help  
to clean and repair it but you?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults and sins, O Lord,  
and spare your servant. St. Augustine of Hippo
- 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 Dr. Hylton  
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

Dr. Hylton

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51:1-12  
*Pew Bible Page 452*

John Soldner

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Hylton

*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.  
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SERMON

*Prescriptions for Wounded Souls*  
God's Mercy and Human Failure

Rev. Lisa Larsen

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

*Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

Create in Me

John Purifoy

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me, I pray.  
Restore to me now the joy of salvation, and grant me a willing spirit.  
Create a clean heart within me.

From Psalm 51

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

OFFERTORY

A Hymn to God the Father

Howard Helvey

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun, which is my sin, though it were done before?  
Wilt thou forgive those sins through which I run, and do run still, though still I do deplore?  
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.  
Wilt thou forgive that sin by which I've won others to sin, and made my sin their door?  
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun a year or two, but wallowed in a score?  
When thou has done, thou hast not done, for I have more.

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun my last thread, I shall perish on the shore.

Swear by thyself that, at my death, thy Son shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.

And having done that, thou hast done, I fear no more.

John Donne, 1573-1631

▲ 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 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.



# 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

## Childcare

Childcare is available 8:30 am until the close of the 11:00 am service. The Nursery (Room 207), the Early Walker Room (Room 231), and the Toddler Room (Room 230) are located on the second floor of the main church building. Infants - crawling should go to the Nursery, walkers under 2 (as of September 30) should go to the Early Walker Room, and those ages 2-pre-K should utilize the Toddler Room.

## Children's Sunday School

Visit our [Children's webpage](#) to learn 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).

## Youth Sunday School

Visit our [Youth webpage](#) for information about Sunday School, youth group, and other special events.

- Youth Sunday School, for grades 6-12, meets in the Multipurpose Building for fellowship, worship, and small group Bible studies.

## Adult Sunday School

Visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#) for class descriptions and more information.

- ***The Council of Nicaea and Its Creed after 1700 years***  
Resumes March 30  
**Quinn Fox**  
**Chapel and Online**  
We are exploring the historical and theological significance of the Nicene Creed, examining its key statements about the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
- ***The Dangerous Act of Loving God and Neighbor***  
**Nancy Fox, Ginny Beeson**  
**Room 209**  
We are looking at the inseparable connection of Christian worship and Jesus' call into his work of justice.
- ***Parent Gathering***  
**Jones Hall, Education Building**  
All parents of youth and children are invited to stop by Jones Hall in the Education building for coffee, fellowship, and small group Bible studies that correspond with the children's and youth classes.
- ***Ephesians and Philippians***  
**R. V. Seep**  
**Garden Room A**  
In Philippians the apostle Paul finds joy while in prison, taunted by his critics, wanting necessities, and separated from those he loved. Amid dire circumstances, Paul pens a letter radiating joy.
- ***The Gospel According to Mark***  
**Margaret Gardner, Donna Duss**  
**Garden Room C**  
Mark's gospel describes the life of Jesus with a pathos and urgency that underline its momentous implications.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **AARP Smart Driver™ Course March 26 from 9 am - 3 pm NPC Multipurpose Building**

Course participants will learn defensive driving skills, safety strategies, DC driving laws, current driving technologies and how to manage common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. Participants may be eligible for a multi-year insurance discount after taking the course, there are no tests. The course is open to drivers of all ages for a fee of \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Participants can register by going to: <https://www.aarp.org/auto/driver-safety/locations/>

## **VBS Campers & Volunteers: Sign Up Today!**

Vacation Bible School is June 23-27 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm, for children age 4 to rising 5th grade. Register your campers today for a week of Bible stories, music, crafts, games, service, and more! We also need adult volunteers to serve as crew leaders and station leaders. Come point kids to Jesus, their “True North” as we explore what it means to trust Jesus in a wild world! Contact Jill Meek ([jmeek@nationalpres.org](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org)).

## **Our Journey of Discipleship Together!**

We are all on a journey of faith to grow closer to Christ—through worship, prayer, scripture, and service. NPC has many resources available to support you on your journey. Please visit [nationalpres.org/discipleship](http://nationalpres.org/discipleship) or contact Connections Ministry ([Isaum@nationalpres.org](mailto:Isaum@nationalpres.org)) at 202-537-7494.

*One of the Two Most Popular Large Choral Works in Music History*

## **A GERMAN REQUIEM**

JOHANNES BRAHMS

English Translation by Robert Shaw

**NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FESTIVAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA**

**Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 5 pm**

*Make Plans with Your Family and Friends!*

No Tickets Required – Freewill Offering

*This QR Code will also be available*

*for online giving during offering, or now for generous donations in advance.*



For information please go to

[www.nationalpres.org/brahms](http://www.nationalpres.org/brahms)

Or call the NPC Music Office at 202-537-7553.



**Called  
to Care**

## **Newly Separated? Recently Divorced?**

Divorcecare is a program for those navigating the end of a marriage.

Visit [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org) or contact [careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org) /202-537-7540

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,  
as indeed you are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

# 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!

## **Newcomers and long-timers:**

Let us know you are here!

Whether in the Sanctuary or worshipping online - we want to know you and care for you:

- Please sign the guestbook in the pews or online on our [Watch](#) webpage.

## **Ways to Connect:**

- Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website or [info@nationalpres.org](mailto:info@nationalpres.org).
- Contact our Connections Ministry to get a conversation started:  
[lsaum@nationalpres.org](mailto:lsaum@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.

## **Your Giving Makes 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.

To support the general ministry of National:

- Go to [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving)
- Text "NPC" to 833-414-9444
- Scan the QR code below:



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](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org).

## **Prayers**

### **We pray for:**

Godly wisdom to guide us.

### **We pray for:**

NPC's youth,  
for God's encouragement  
and guidance as they grow,  
and for boldness to share  
the good news of Jesus.

### **How may we pray for you?**

Please submit prayer requests  
to the Care Office,  
[careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org)  
202-537-7540.

## **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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