DOXOLOGY

WE MAKE OUR SONG

Alleluia

A SERVICE OF MUSIC AND WORD

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHANCEL CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

SUNDAY
JUNE 16, 2024, 10 AM
WASHINGTON, DC
There is no more recognized worship word than “Alleluia.” It stands with “Amen” as ubiquitous and universal. Whether in the original Hebrew Hallelujah or its Greek and Latin derivatives, it simply means, “Let us praise the Lord!”

In the Old Testament Psalter it appears as an introductory or concluding call to worship for a number of individual or groups of Psalms. Indeed the whole of Psalm 150 punctuates the very end of Israel’s “hymnal” with a rousing reminder to praise God: “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!”

In the New Testament’s final book it is appropriated into Christian worship in Revelation 19: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God… Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give God glory!”

In music history it has been adopted and adapted in countless musical styles, from the earliest plainsong chants, to the grand sacred works of Bach, Handel, Beethoven and beyond, to a very recent expression of contemporary popular music housed on our digital playlists.

Yet to contextualize the force of this most familiar word of praise in our worship this morning, we need look no farther than a beloved prayer of commendation, into God’s eternal embrace, for friends and loved ones whom we have lost:

Almighty God, you alone are immortal, the Creator and Maker of all. We are mortal, formed of the earth, and to the earth shall we return. This you ordained when you created us, saying, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: “Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

“Alleluia” is the song of all who purpose to live their days “under heaven,” to seek and find, by the grace of God, identity, security, and destiny in the loving arms of a Savior who beckons us to trust and follow him down roads he already knows, for God’s glory and our good.

Dr. Michael Denham
Director of Music Ministries
10:00 AM WORSHIP
Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD’S PRESENCE

Prelude Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552
J.S. Bach
Todd Fickley, organ

Chimes

Call to Worship

One Alleluia! Praise God in his sanctuary!
All Praise him in his mighty firmament!
One Praise him for his mighty deeds!
All Praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
One Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
All Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
One Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud, clashing cymbals!
All Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Alleluia!

Fanfare and Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King
John Rutter

Lasst uns erfreuen

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia! 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 heav’n along,
O praise him! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Women of the Choir
Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest us both warmth and light,
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Chancel Choir
O ev’ryone of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
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!

Prayer of Adoration
Dr. Fox

Congregational Response as directed
Lasst uns erfreuen

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God 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!
Confession of Sin

Eternal God,
you call us to worship you in Spirit and in truth.
We confess that, in our disobedience and sin,
we often worship only who we wish you to be.
We often ask you to bless what we do,
rather than seeking to do what you bless.
Forgive our self-centeredness and pride.
Set and keep us on paths of righteousness for your name’s sake.
Shape us into what you want us to be.
Show us more fully who you really are
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior.

Silent Confession and Choral Meditation
Softly and Tenderly
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home.”
“Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home”
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home.”

Assurance of Pardon
Believe the good news of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Congregational Response
Angels, help us to adore him: You behold God face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Affirmation of Faith
My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own,
but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

from Heidelberg Catechism

A Time for Children
Jesus Calms the Storm
When my heart is filled with fear like a stormy sky,
Jesus says, “Be not afraid;” he is at my side.

There’s a Rock where I can go, keeps me safe, and this I know:
Deep within my troubled soul, Jesus calms the storm.
When my thoughts are tossed and turned like a raging sea,
I will listen to his voice; he will comfort me.
He who rules the wind and waves soon will come again.
O take courage, little heart; every storm will end.

Elle Schmitt, Joanna Zorack-Greene, and the Children

Children return to join their families in the pews.
The nursery rooms are available for children age 4 and under.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

O Sing unto the Lord a New Song

Scripture Psalm 98
Janice Sessing

▲ Hymn 218 New Songs of Celebration Render
Rendez à Dieu

Scripture John 6:35-40
Paul Grosvenor

Choral Response He Will Hold Me Fast
Matt Merker
with Keith & Kristyn Getty

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.
When my anxious thoughts prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path,
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast;
for my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Through the dangers of the night, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises will last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

Ethan and Joanna Zorack-Greene with Heather Green, violin

Scripture Philippians 2:1-11
Mary Ellen Cain

Choral Response And Can It Be?
Dan Forrest

And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?
And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior’s blood?
Died he for me who caused his pain, for me who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father’s throne above, so free, so infinite his grace;
Emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam’s helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.
And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus and all in him is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach th’ eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own
Amazing love, how can it be that thou, my God shouldst die for me?

Amazing love, how can it be? Amazing love!

Amazing love, how can it be? Amazing love!

Scripture Revelation 21:1-7
William Gregory

Choral Response All Things New
Elaine Hagenberg

Light after darkness, gain after loss, strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wand’ring, praise after tears
Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, he is making all things new;
Springs of living water shall wipe away each tear. He is making all things new.

Sight after myst’ry, sun after rain, joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
Near after distant, gleam after gloom, love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Frances Havergal
WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL

Call for Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Dr. Fox

Offertory Ukrainian Alleluia

Craig Courtney

A Musical Portrayal of a Quiet Voice of Faith, Praise, and Hope in the Midst of Prolonged Suffering and Tragedy

Doxology Ralph Vaughan Williams

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God whom heav’n and earth adore,

From us and from the angel host be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer Dr. Hylton

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 O God, Beyond All Praising Richard Proulx

Thaxted by Gustav Holst

O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today,

And sing your love amazing that songs cannot repay.

For we can only wonder at ev’ry gift you send,

At blessings without number and mercies without end.

We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,

We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Chancel Choir

The depth of night is passing, the dawn is nearly come,

And nearer our salvation than when we first began.

Your faithfulness and mercies refresh as morning dew

While sov’reign grace and purpose are making all things new;

For Christ the man from heaven from death has set us free,

And we through him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,

That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;

And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,

We will triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:

To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,

And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Benediction Dr. Hylton

Choral Response God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Peter Anglea

God be with you till we meet again.

By his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you.

God be with you till we meet again. Alleluia, amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ Rev. Larsen

Postlude March Triomphale on "Nun Danket"

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
The English text *All Creatures of Our God and King* derives from Francis of Assisi’s 13th century Italian verse “Altissimu, omnipotente, bon signore,” also known as “Canticle of the Sun.” St. Francis was born Giovanni Bernardone, a son of wealth and privilege. He renounced such position to lead a life of simplicity, contemplation, and service. Francis’ grateful heart opened his eyes to evidence of God’s hand in all creation. His words of praise are reminiscent of Psalm 145, “All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord,” and “Alleluias” are featured prominently throughout. The hymn tune *Lasst uns erfreuen* is from a 17th century German Catholic songbook. The original composer is unknown, but the melody was harmonized for *The English Hymnal* (1906) by Ralph Vaughan Williams. This morning’s festival setting for choir and congregation is by John Rutter.

*Softly and Tenderly* is a sterling example of gospel hymns from the American revival tradition. The tune name is Thompson, after its author, Will L. Thompson. Shortly before his death, it is reported that the great evangelist Dwight L. Moody said to Thompson, “Will, I would rather have written “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” than anything I have been able to do in my whole life.”

*Jesus Calms the Storm* has just been released in a new recording by the Getty music team, Hymns for Anxious Little Hearts. Please allow their telling of the story behind the song to introduce it to you. They write, “The fears and brokenness of the world weigh so heavily on our children’s shoulders. We see it more and more. But we know there is one voice that can calm the storm and breathe courage into a fearful heart. It is a relief to point our children to the Savior. His truth remains unbreakable. The earth is the Lord’s and everything within. He carries our griefs and takes up our sorrows at the cross. He walks beside us in his life-giving path. He is our confidence and courage…And now, little children, abide in him.”

A Reformed Psalm tune is the basis for this modern paraphrase of Psalm 98 by Erik Routley. *Rendez à Dieu* lends to this new hymn, *New Songs of Celebration Render*, flavor of worship in Strasbourg and Geneva. It was originally composed or adapted again by Louis Bourgeois. This section of “new” hymns—or old hymns newly arranged—continues with Matt Merker's *He Will Hold Me Fast* in a setting adapted by Keith and Kristyn Getty. The Getty’s, along with their frequent collaborator, Stuart Townend, have become over the last few years the world’s most frequently-performed hymn writers. Whether sung by soloists, a choir, or congregations, their works engage singers and hearers alike at the deep existential intersection of intellect, emotion, and will. Merker’s adapted text and tune are here further rarified by the inclusion of Sibelius’ striking melody from his *Finlandia* tone poem as both a prelude and postlude. It is known to most congregations in the hymn, “Be Still, My Soul.”

*And Can It Be?* is a beloved hymn text written in 1738 only shortly after Charles Wesley’s conversion to faith in Christ. It emphasizes God’s free grace, mercy, and redemptive work, while boldly contrasting darkness and light, life and death, slavery to sin and freedom in Christ. Methodist Wesley went on to write thousands of hymn texts now beloved in an array of Christian traditions. *Sagina* is the historically familiar tune to which this hymn is sung, but here we sing a new lyrically poignant setting by Dan Forrest.

*All Things New* conveys by contrasts in the text the process or progression from something former to something emerging, present, or future. 19th century hymn writer Frances Havergal captures this in an adaptation of Revelation 21:5-6, here newly set by celebrated young American composer Elaine Hagenberg.
In his own words Craig Courtney tells of the genesis of Ukrainian Alleluia: “In the summer of 2007, I had the privilege of being part of a mission team serving in the Ukraine. Because of its geographical position and rich natural resources, the country has a history of foreign invasion, occupation, and oppression. It is estimated that more than 25 million Ukrainians were killed during the 20th century due to starvation, war and the deadliest nuclear accident in history. Ukrainian Christians in particular suffered discrimination, arrest, torture, and even death for the sake of their beliefs… In 2011, I was invited to direct a 1,000-voice Ukrainian choir performing this piece. It happened in November in an unheated concert hall, crowded to the point that people were standing in the aisles. When we reached a climactic, dissonant chord followed by silence near the end of the piece, the entire crowd gasped. It was as if all of their suffering was present in that chord and it pierced their hearts. This piece is even more relevant today.”

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost is the final verse of “All People that on Earth Do Dwell,” a 16th century metrical version of Psalm 100 that by 1650 made its way into the Scottish Psalter. The tune was composed and adapted by Louis Bourgeois for Psalm 134 in his Thirty-Four Psalms of David (1551), but the melody soon became associated with Psalm 100, hence, Old Hundredth. Now widely recognized as the tune to the “Doxology,” in this majestic setting by Ralph Vaughan Williams it is a fitting response in worship celebrating “words of glory” lifted to the Lord.

Our final hymn, O God, Beyond All Praising, was penned (here with some additional texts by Michael Denham) by Michael Perry (1942-1996), one of the UK’s leading 20th century hymn text writers. The stately and stirring tune Thaxted (here arranged by Richard Proulx) is derived from Gustav Holst’s orchestral suite The Planets. It is here arranged by the late Richard Proulx, long-time Music Director of Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

Peter Anglea’s Benediction, here titled, God Be with You Till We Meet Again, is newly set with lyrical and tender simplicity by this young American composer. It is a treasured text of blessing and farewell that deeply touches us with secure hope of resurrection, and assurance

Trumpets
Woodrow English
John Abbraciamento
Fred Marcellus
Chuck Seipp

Trombones
Greg Hammond
Kyle Price
Michael Burner

Violin
Heather Green

Timpani
Adam Green

Program and Publicity
Pamela Carder
Devin Wulff
Charles Glendinning
**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

All worship services are in the Sanctuary and online on our Watch webpage.

- **10:00 am**: Doxology Traditional Worship
- No Sunday School Classes

**Childcare**
The Nursery rooms are available during worship this morning for infants to walkers, up to age 4.

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**TODAY AT NATIONAL**

**NPC Stained Glass Windows Tour**
**Today, after 10 am worship**
The History & Archives Ministry invites all to meet in the narthex nearest to National Presbyterian School for a 45-minute tour of our Tiffany windows, the biblical windows along the aisles of the Sanctuary, as well as the lancet windows (in the corners of the transepts) that portray the historic creeds, confessions and catechisms of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Light refreshments served at the conclusion.

**2nd Sunday Sandwich Making**
**Today, after 10 am Worship**
Join us in Stone Fellowship Hall to make 400 sandwiches for Martha’s Table. McKenna’s Wagon delivers food to the hungry on the streets of DC every day of the year. This is a great event for the whole family!

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**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Today, June 16
- 10:00 am: Doxology Worship
- 11:15 am: History and Archives stained glass window tour
- 11:15 am: 2nd Sunday Sandwich Making

Tuesday, June 18
- 7:00 pm: Youth Park Night

Wednesday, June 19
- Offices closed for Juneteenth Holiday

Sunday, June 23
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am: Summer Speaker Series
- 9:55 am: Hands-on Summer
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Summer Choir Begins Next Sunday**
Love to sing? Summer Choir rehearses only on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to sing for the 11:00 am service. Starting Sunday, June 23 we would love to welcome you! For more information contact the music office at 202.537.7553 or dwulff@nationalpres.org.

**Youth Park Nights**
**Turtle Park**
**45th & Van Ness NW**
**Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 pm**
All NPC youth are invited to Turtle Park on Tuesdays to play sports and games, and to hang out with youth staff. Bring a friend! For questions, contact Kristin Franke at kfranke@nationalpres.org.
Summer Speaker Series
Sundays, June 23 - August 25
Each Sunday this summer we'll welcome a special guest speaker on a topic of contemporary concern or perennial meaning for faithful Christians to consider. We will meet in-person in Stone Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:45 am. Unable to attend in person? The series will be available to view online. The complete line-up is available below. Please see our webpage or contact grow@nationalpres.org for more information.

Upcoming Events

Hands-on Summer
Beginning June 23, 9:55 am
This summer, you are invited to take part in hands-on art and service projects together! All ages can participate. Each week, we'll start with Scripture to lead us into our project.

On June 30, we are in need of snack donations for the students in the Unique Learning Center summer program. Visit the Events page to see a list of needed donations, or contact Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org).

Summer Speaker Series
For more information please visit our Adults Classes Page

Next week, Sunday June 23
A Historic Point of Departure: Bringing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict to a Close and Creating a New Regional Geopolitical Order
Dr. Alon Ben Meir
World leaders have an opportunity to engage in a historic point of departure from the traditional US approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The question is, will they seize this opportunity that presented itself following Hamas' attack and Israel's retaliation that makes it impossible to return to the status quo ante, and bring a closure to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

“The Test:” Immigration, Older Adult Living and the Loneliness Crisis (Luncheon follow-up conversation)
June 30
Claudia Myers

Christian Nationalism, The Capitol Riot, and the Rising Threat to American Pluralism
July 7
Matthew Taylor

The Spirit of Our Politics: Spiritual Formation and the Renovation of Public Life
July 14
Michael Wear

Climate, Security and Immigration (Luncheon presentation: Immigration and the Church in a Time of "Global Insecurity")
July 21
Mark Douglas

The Age of AI: Christian Ethics and the Future of Humanity
July 28
Jason Thacker

Looking at Jesus through Old Testament Eyes
August 4
Tremper Longman

Joyful Generosity
August 11
Lacie Stevens

Salvation Army leader on volunteerism
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Summer Trip Reports
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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 for:
Our lives to worship and glorify God.

We pray for:
Dustin and Sherri Ellington as they train pastors to proclaim the gospel in Lebanon.

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 in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Susan Pinckernell Denecke and family in loving memory of her beloved parents, Harry and Louise Pinckernell.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Charlie Lewis by his family.

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.

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