

April 13, 2025  
Palm Sunday

Welcome to  
**NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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

*As he came near and saw the city,  
he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you,  
had only recognized on this day the things  
that make for peace! But now they are  
hidden from your eyes.*

Luke 19:41-42



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](#).

## Welcome to Palm Sunday!

### Worship at 8:45 & 11:00 am

Today we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem with a children's palm procession! 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.

## Holy Week Devotional

Take a special journey to a deeper relationship with God. You'll find our Holy Week devotional on pages 13-15 of this bulletin or [online](#), accessible from our website's [events page](#).

## Holy Week Hands-on Prayer Stations Thursday, April 17 & Friday, April 18 3:00-7:00 pm, Garden Rooms

Come walk through the events of Holy Week with hands-on prayer stations, designed to be accessible for children and people of all ages. Stop by the Garden Rooms any time between 3-7 pm and spend about 20-30 minutes using your five senses to reflect on the Easter story.

## Maundy Thursday Worship Service April 17 at 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

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

### April 18 at 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

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

## Easter Sunday Worship Services April 20 at 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30 am

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 complimentary keepsake photos taken in the beautiful Easter Garden!

## Children & Easter

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

Join us TONIGHT for One of the Two Most Popular  
Large Choral Works in Music History

JOHANNES BRAHMS

## A GERMAN REQUIEM

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FESTIVAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

Palm Sunday, April 13 at 5 pm

No tickets required - Freewill offering

Make Plans with Your Family and Friends!

This QR Code will also be available  
for online giving during the offering,



For more information,  
[www.nationalpres.org/brahms](http://www.nationalpres.org/brahms)

# 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    Zechariah 9:9    Dr. Quinn Fox

*One*     Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

**All**         **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!**

*One*     Lo, your king comes to you;

**All**         **Triumphant and victorious is he; humble and riding on a donkey.**

*One*     Let us lift up our hearts and worship God together.

▲ OPENING SONG    Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang.

Through pillared court and temple, the lovely anthem rang.

To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.

The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing!

For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King!

O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dr. Fox

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Almighty God, as we worship you today,

we remember that your Son our Savior entered Jerusalem in triumph,  
and was proclaimed Messiah and King.

Many spread garments and branches along his way,  
but did not know that way would lead to Calvary.

As we too raise branches of palms and voices singing, "Hosanna,"  
we bow before you in humble repentance.

Help us remember that the One who came in the name of the Lord,  
came for our forgiveness and redemption.

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. Fox  
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                                      Luke 19:41-44  
*Pew Bible pages 854-855*

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES    Jill Meek  
Director of Children's Ministry

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

SERMON    The Tears of Jesus    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    Rev. Lisa Larsen

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

- ▲ OFFERING SONG                                      Battle Belongs                                      Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham  
When all I see is the battle, you see my victory.  
When all I see is a mountain, you see a mountain moved.  
And as I walk through the shadow, your love surrounds me.  
There's nothing to fear now, for I am safe with you.  
*So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees, with my hands lifted high.  
O God, the battle belongs to you! And every fear I lay at your feet.  
I'll sing through the night. O God, the battle belongs to you.*  
And if you are for me, who can be against me?  
For Jesus, there's nothing impossible for you.  
When all I see are the ashes, you see the beauty.  
When all I see is a cross, God, you see the empty tomb. **Chorus**  
O God, the battle belongs to you.

▲ 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 Rev. Larsen  
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 Shout Hosanna Kristian Stanfill  
To the King of glory and light, all praises; to the only giver of life, our Maker.  
The gates are open wide; we worship you.  
Come see what love has done, amazing. He bought us with his blood, our Savior.  
The cross has overcome; we worship you.  
*Shout hosanna, Jesus, he saves!*  
*Shout hosanna, he rose from the grave!*  
*Come and lift him up, hosanna!*  
Now let the lost be found, forgiven. Death could not hold him down; he's risen.  
So let the saints cry out, we worship you. We worship you! *Chorus*  
The same power that rolled the stone away, the same power alive in us today,  
King Jesus, we call upon your name, no other name. (2x) *Chorus (2x)*  
Come and lift him up hosanna! (2x)

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Dr. Hylton

▲ SENDING NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

**NOTES**

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# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE O World, I Must Leave You Johannes Brahms  
Op. 122, No. 11

Overture G. F. Handel  
CHIMES Todd Fickley, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP Zechariah 9:9 Dr. Quinn Fox

*One* Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

**All Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!**

*One* Lo, your king comes to you;

**All Triumphant and victorious is he; humble and riding on a donkey.**

*One* Let us lift up our hearts and worship God together.

▲ HYMN Hosanna, Loud Hosanna *Ellacombe*

*Choir and Children in Procession*

Hosanna to the King of Kings! Hosanna, let the praises ring!

Hosanna to the King of Kings! Hosanna, let them ring!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna!

Hosanna to the King of Kings! Hosanna to the King!

▲ **Congregation standing**

Hosanna, loud hosanna the little children sang.

Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.

To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,

The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,

The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.

The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,

Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Dr. Fox

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Ellacombe*

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,

For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven, our King.

O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,

And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

CONFESSON OF SIN in unison Dr. Fox

Almighty God, as we worship you today,

we remember that your Son our Savior entered Jerusalem in triumph,

and was proclaimed Messiah and King.

Many spread garments and branches along his way,

but did not know that way would lead to Calvary.

As we too raise branches of palms and voices singing, "Hosanna,"

we bow before you in humble repentance.

Help us remember that the One who came in the name of the Lord,

came for our forgiveness and redemption.

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 Dr. Fox  
Believe the good news of the Gospel.  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

▲ RESPONSE OF PRAISE Truro  
Lift up your heads, you mighty gates, behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Dr. Fox  
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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Luke 19:41-44 Deacon Jennifer Cibor  
*Pew Bible pages 854-855*  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Jill Meek  
Director of Children's Ministry  
*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.*  
*Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.*

SERMON The Tears of Jesus Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

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

CHORAL RESPONSE Winchester New  
Ride on! Ride on in majesty! The wingèd squadrons of the sky  
Look down with sad and wond'ring eyes to see th' approaching sacrifice.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS Rev. Lisa Larsen

OFFERTORY

The Savior's Lament

Michael Denham

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you,  
how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,  
but you were not willing.*

Matthew 23:37, remembering Lamentations 1:12

*I come to you, O my Jerusalem, if you would only hear my cry!*

*I come to you, O my Jerusalem, to you to suffer and to die.*

But comes a day in the morning of waving your palms on high,

When you will shout loud hosannas and blessing, but soon will jeer, "O crucify!"

*I come to you, O my Jerusalem, if you would only hear my cry!*

*I come to you, O my Jerusalem, to you to suffer and to die.*

But comes a day of the morning, when ancient strife shall cease,

And I will reign over you in glory, around my throne eternal peace!

*O come to me now, my Jerusalem, lay bare your heart to me today.*

*O come to me now my Jerusalem. Come now to me, turn not away!*

*O my Jerusalem! O my Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Jerusalem!*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Larsen

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 88

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Valet will ich dir geben*

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

*Winchester New*

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die:

O Christ, thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Larsen

▲ POSTLUDE

Processional

Grayston Ives  
Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Everyone is invited downstairs to Stone Fellowship Hall after worship  
for Coffee, Cookies, and Community.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315



# 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***  
**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**  
Ephesians has been called the "queen of the epistles," offering a birds-eye view of key themes in Christian reflection and living—God, the world, Jesus, the church, salvation, Christian behavior, marriage and family, and spiritual warfare. Theology and worship intersect here as the doctrine and practice of the Church is examined against the backdrop of God's purposes.
- ***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 & EVENTS

## **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 ([lsaum@nationalpres.org](mailto:lsaum@nationalpres.org), 202-537-7494).

*Want to dig deeper on discipleship with pastors and leaders? Or considering church membership as a next step on your journey of faith? Attend our one day Spring class!*

## **Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class**

**Saturday, April 26 at 9:00 am**

### **Garden Rooms**

Come learn more about NPC and the Christian faith. Enjoy special teaching, meet new friends, and enjoy food and fellowship. For more info or to register by April 19, visit our [Events](#) page or contact Kemet Rakiatu ([krakiatu@nationalpres.org](mailto:krakiatu@nationalpres.org), 202-537-7578).

## **2nd Sunday Sandwich Making**

**Today, April 13 at 12:15 pm**

All are invited to Stone Fellowship Hall to make hundreds of sandwiches for Martha's Table, a community-led nonprofit that works alongside its neighbors to support those in need. These sandwiches will be delivered to people experiencing hunger on the streets of Washington, D.C. This is a great opportunity for all ages to serve together!

## **Serve Our City: Little Lights**

**Saturday, April 26 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm**

You are invited to partner with Little Lights for their Saturday Program to provide a safe, fun, and encouraging space for their students to spend their weekend hours. Whether it's playing games, making a craft, or helping with homework, this will be an excellent opportunity to encourage our city's youth and allow them to bless you as well. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards ([jedwards@nationalpres.org](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org)).

## **Week at a Glance**

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

### **Palm Sunday, April 13**

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Sandwich Making
- 5:00 pm: Concert - *Brahms Requiem*
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17**

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

### **Good Friday, April 18**

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

### **Easter Sunday, April 20**

- 8:30 am: Easter Worship
- Easter egg hunt in the Garden (after 8:30 service)
- 10:00 am: Easter Worship
- Easter egg hunt on the playground (after 10:00 service)
- 11:30 am: Easter Worship



**Called  
to Care**

## **May we pray for you?**

If you would like to request prayer or feel called to join our prayer team, contact [careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org) / 202-537-7540.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

Phil 4:6

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## **Young Professionals Bible Study** **Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00 pm** **Room 109**

Each week, young professionals gather for a Bible study that focuses on applying faith to daily life in Washington DC, as well as for periodic social events. For more information contact Kristin Franke ([kfranke@nationalpres.org](mailto:kfranke@nationalpres.org)).

## **Women's Ministry Spring Brunch** **Saturday, May 3 at 12:00 pm** **Stone Fellowship Hall**

All women are invited to the Women's Ministry Brunch. The gathering will build on our recent retreat and a year of deepening our roots in Christ. Fellowship, prayer, inspiration, and a bit of fun will provide "Food for Soul" as we step into the fruitfulness of life together. Please join us for delicious food and faith-filled conversation. Visit our [events page](#) to register by April 28.

## **Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)** **Saturday, May 4 at 5:00 pm**

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Invite your friends and join us for fun, faith, and fellowship. If you are interested in attending, please contact [jmeek@nationalpres.org](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org) or check our [Events page](#) for more information and meeting dates.

## **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)).

## **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.

## **Hearing Assistance**

NPC has a great system for hearing assistance in any location in the sanctuary. Small hearing assistance packs are available in the racks just outside of the Sanctuary, along with instructions for use.

## **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](mailto:kfranke@nationalpres.org)).

## **My NPC**

Looking for our online directory? Click "[My NPC](#)" at the top of our website to connect! My NPC is a secure, password-protected website for our NPC family where you can find our directory, upload your photo, locate groups, view your giving and more!

## **Visit Our Library!**

Come by the gorgeous library for books for all ages! Visit us on Level 2 of the Main Church, and chat with our new volunteer librarians. Questions about the library can be addressed to [npclibrary@nationalpres.org](mailto:npclibrary@nationalpres.org).

# 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:**

that we would draw closer to God during Holy Week.

### **We pray for:**

Forman Christian College, in Lahore, Pakistan as they provide Christian education and witness.

### **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 in loving memory of the life of Vivian Christy Sansoni, celebrating her 24th birthday on April 16th, from her father, Brian Sansoni, and her family and friends, who love her and miss her dearly.



# SETTING OUR FACES TOWARD JERUSALEM

## A National Presbyterian Church Holy Week Devotional

Holy Week is the most significant week of the Christian calendar. This year our devotional will focus on Jesus' final teachings to his disciples. These lessons are the culmination of his three-year ministry and center on the divine revelation of who Jesus is: the Messiah, Jesus the Christ. These teachings are also forward-thinking; they provide the disciples with instructions for after he's gone and guidance to be his disciples to the world. May these daily devotions, meditation questions, and prayers draw us closer to God and renew our commitments to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

### Monday - John 12:44-46: Look for the light



*Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light in the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness."*

1. Why did Jesus clarify that to believe in him is to believe in God the Father? Why would that be important for the disciples to know?
2. What darkness does Jesus dispel in the world? In your life?

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for sending your son Jesus to us to bring your light into our world. Thank you for the ways Jesus has transformed my life with his light, love, and grace. Help me to see evidence of that light today, and may I praise you for it. Amen.

## Tuesday - John 13:33-35: Love one another

*“Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

1. Jesus transforms the Old Testament commandment to love your neighbor to a new commandment to love as he loved. How is Jesus’ love different?
2. When others look at your actions and behaviors, would they see Christ in you? If not, what can you do with God’s help to love more sacrificially?



Prayer: Loving God, thank you the gift of your son, Jesus, who came to reflect your light and love to our world. Help me to see others the way that you do, with love and compassion. May I demonstrate your love to those around me, so that I am known as your disciple. Amen.

## Wednesday - John 14:4-6: Jesus Christ is the way

*“And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

1. Thomas speaks for the group when he confesses that he doesn’t know that they are headed toward Jesus’ death. Jesus responds with a declaration that he is God’s Messiah. Why do you think there was such a disconnect between Jesus and his disciples?
2. Jesus is clear that the only way to God is through relationship with Jesus Christ. How does your life profess Jesus as the Savior?

Prayer: Merciful God, thank you for Jesus’ ministry and love toward me and that because of that love, I am always in your presence. Amen.

## Maundy Thursday - John 14:25-27: The Holy Spirit is always with us



*“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”*

1. Why would Jesus comfort his disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit? What is he instructing them to do?
2. How does the Holy Spirit remind you of Jesus’ teachings and offer you comfort and peace?

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to your people. Thank you for your presence with us through the Holy Spirit. Help me to be more aware of this gift in my life, and to allow the Holy Spirit to encourage, teach, and comfort me today. Amen.

## Good Friday - John 15:5-8: Abide in me

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."*

1. What does Jesus want the disciples to grasp from his metaphor of the vine and the branches? How will those lessons help them stay connected to Jesus after his death?
2. What evidence do you display of your connection to Jesus? What good fruits are you producing?

Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for your presence in my life and for the ways I reflect your character. Help me to show your love, goodness, gentleness, mercy, and kindness to others today. Amen.



## Saturday - John 17:25-26: The gift of Jesus

*"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

1. These are the last words Jesus prays to God before he is betrayed, arrested, convicted, and crucified. They are a beautiful summary of Jesus' ministry. What do you learn about Jesus' relationship with God, the world and the disciples?
2. You were created by God to have a relationship with Jesus. How will you share that gift with others?

Prayer: Eternal God, thank you for your great love for me, and for sending your son, Jesus, to die for my sins. Thank you for this amazing gift of new life, and for the restored relationship with you that is behind it. May my praise for you be heartfelt, and my worship of you bring you honor and delight. Amen.





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