

July 20, 2025

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*It is written that Messiah is to suffer
and rise on the third day,
and that repentance
and forgiveness of sins
is to be proclaimed in his name
to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
Luke 24:46-47*



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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

Today we are joined in worship by Rev. Craig Meek

Rev. Meek was ordained at NPC in 2017 and then served for five years as an Assistant Minister at St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland. He has previously preached and taught Sunday School at NPC, and is married to Director of Children's Ministry, Jill Meek.

Our Summer Schedule

During the Sunday School hour there are two wonderful ways to engage: Hands-On Summer, an opportunity for all ages to serve and participate in Bible study together, and our Summer Speaker Series, which will offer invaluable insights about living faithfully in challenging times. Check out page 9 for more information. See you there!

Texas Flood Relief Efforts

In light of the devastation caused by the flooding across Texas Hill Country, NPC has established a special giving account dedicated to relief efforts. All funds will be donated directly to the Salvation Army, which is actively providing emergency assistance, food, shelter, and spiritual care to affected individuals and families. Your generosity can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by this disaster.

You can donate by [clicking the link here](#), scanning this QR code, or sending a check to NPC with "Texas Flood Relief" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity and support!



Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering

**Today, July 20 at 12:15 pm
Room 109**

Our Deacons will host a gathering for those struggling with job loss or uncertainty. Come for prayer and support.

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, July 20

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am: Summer Speaker Series
- 9:55 am: Hands-On Summer
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies & Community
- 12:15 pm: Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering
- 5:00 pm: Club 45

Sunday, July 20 - July 24

- High School Summer Trip: CIY Move

Sunday, July 27

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am: Summer Speaker Series
- 9:55 am: Hands-On Summer
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies & Community
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Club 45

Tonight, July 20 at 5:00 pm

Rising 4th & 5th graders, Club 45 is just for you! Come grow in faith and friendship through fun games, Bible study and more. We meet several times throughout the summer, so come whenever you can. For more information, contact Jill Meek (jmeek@nationalpres.org).

Service of Installation

Sunday, August 3 at 2:00 pm

The National Capital Presbytery joyfully invites you to the Service of Installation for Rev. Lisa Larsen as Associate Pastor of National Presbyterian Church. There will be a reception following the service in Stone Fellowship Hall.

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

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)*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Heavenly Father, you prove your love for us in that while we still were still sinners,
Christ died for us. You made us your children through your Spirit, and in your
lovingkindness you adopted us and delivered us from sin and death. Remind us
today what it means to be your children, and to be free from the law of sin and
death. It is so easy for us to merely live on our own terms. Help us to live in the light
of your grace. Thank you for accepting us as we are, but not leaving us the same.

From Max Lucado

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

Rev. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 34:6-7
Pew Bible Page 71

Luke 24:46-48
Pew Bible Page 861

Cindy Ziegler

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

Words to Live By
Forgiveness: Releasing and Restoring for the Sake of Wholeness

Rev. Craig Meek

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 O the Deep, Deep Love Bob Kauflin and Samuel Trevor Francis
- O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me;
Underneath me, all around me is the current of your love;
Leading onward, leading homeward to your glorious rest above.
- O the deep, deep love; all I need and trust is the deep, deep love of Jesus.*
- O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he came to pay our ransom through the saving cross he bore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones, those he died to make his own;
How for them he's interceding, pleading now before the throne. *Chorus (2x)*
- O the deep, deep love of Jesus, far surpassing all the rest;
It's an ocean full of blessing in the midst of ev'ry test;
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, mighty Savior, precious friend;
You will bring us home to glory, where your love will never end. *Chorus (2x)*

▲ DOXOLOGY *Lasst uns erfreuen*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 The Solid Rock *Solid Rock*
My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face I rest on his unchanging grace.
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. **Chorus**

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way he then is all my hope and stay. **Chorus (2x)**

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Meek

▲ SENDING NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Ciacona in E minor

Dieterich Buxtehude
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 6

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Rockport

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Wondrous Love

To God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing! While millions join the theme, I will sing!

CONFESSION OF SIN in unison

Rev. Larsen

Heavenly Father, you prove your love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. You made us your children through your Spirit, and in your lovingkindness you adopted us and delivered us from sin and death. Remind us today what it means to be your children, and to be free from the law of sin and death. It is so easy for us to merely live on our own terms. Help us to live in the light of your grace. Thank you for accepting us as we are, but not leaving us the same.

From Max Lucado

SILENT CONFESSION AND MUSIC MEDITATION

Choir and Congregation

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord!

Great is thy faithfulness!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, amen.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Rev. Larsen

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and

buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 34:6-7
Pew Bible Page 71

Luke 24:46-48
Pew Bible Page 861

Edward Blanton

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

Words to Live By
Forgiveness: Releasing and Restoring for the Sake of Wholeness

Rev. Craig Meek

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

How blest are those whose great sin has freely been forgiv'n,
Whose guilt is wholly covered before the sight of heav'n.
Blest those to whom our Lord God does not impute their sin,
Whose guilt has been forgiven, whose heart is true again.

Fred R. Anderson

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

*Offering plates are at the back of the Sanctuary
to receive your tithes, gifts, and prayer cards as you exit.*

OFFERTORY

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Dan Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears; The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears. *Chodan*
Before the Throne my Surety stands: My name is written on his hands.
Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary;
they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me:
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry, "Nor let that ransomed sinner die."
My God is reconciled, his pard'ning voice I hear;
he owns me for his child, I can no longer fear:
With confidence I now draw nigh, and "Father, Abba, Father," cry.
Arise, my soul, arise! And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.
Arise, my soul, arise.

Charles Wesley
with Jeanne Su, violin

▲ 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.

▲ HYMN

Forgive Our Sins, as We Forgive

Land of Rest

Forgive our sins, as we forgive, you taught us, Lord, to pray,

But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless an unrepentant heart

That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

Judge not, that you might not be judged, forgive and be forgiv'n"

By humble thoughts, and word, and acts are shown the means of heav'n.

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:

What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease.

Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Rosamund Herklots

▲ BENEDICTION

Rev. Meek

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Arise, my soul, arise!

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Stoltzfus

▲ POSTLUDE

Toccata and Fugue in F Major

Dieterich Buxtehude

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

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:45 am:** Summer Speaker Series
- **9:55 am:** Hands-On Summer
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** Coffee, Cookies, & Community

Childcare

Childcare is available 8:30 am until the close of the 11:00 am service. The Nursery (Room 207) and the Toddler Room (Room 230) are located on the second floor of the main church building. Infants - crawling should go to the Nursery and those who are walking - pre-K 4 should utilize the Toddler Room.

Library Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Our NPC Library, located on the second floor, is open from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm on Sundays. Stop in to say hi! We've got books for all ages and ministries to enrich your faith journey and further our mission of leading people to become faithful followers of Jesus together in God's world.

Hands-On Summer

This summer, families are invited to participate in hands-on Bible study and service together! We'll meet in the Garden Rooms from 9:55-10:45 am, and all ages can participate. Each week we'll start with Scripture that will lead us into our project.

Summer Speaker Series

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 Stone Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:45 am.

Today: *The Rule of Law in Times of Turmoil: An Historical Perspective*

Summer Speaker Series: Living Faithfully in Challenging Times

July 20: James Duff

The Rule of Law in Times of Turmoil:
An Historical Perspective

July 27: Margaret Kibben

Faith in Turbulent Times

August 3: Mae Elise Cannon

Peace and Justice in the Middle East: A
Christian Perspective

August 10: Cherie Harder

Finding Calm Amidst Life's Storms

August 17: Nicole Bibbins Sedeca

Faith and Foreign Policy

August 24

Summer Ministry Reports

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 or contact the Connections Ministry (202-537-7494 or lsaum@nationalpres.org).

Nominations for Church Officers

The Congregational Nominating Committee seeks your recommendations of persons to serve as Elders, Deacons, board members for the NPC Fund for Charitable Giving, and members of next year's Congregational Nominating Committee. Please visit nationalpres.org/nominate for more information about these positions and to submit recommendations.

Hearing Assistance

Need assistance hearing during the service? Assisted listening receivers are available on the wall directly to the right as you exit the Sanctuary through the main aisle doors.

Join Our Welcome Team!

Be part of the dynamic team that greets, serves, and connects with folks on Sundays. Please visit our [Serve at Church](#) page and sign up today! You may also contact Leslie Saum (202-537-7494 or lsaum@nationalpres.org).

Summer Choir

Sundays at 10:00 am

Love to sing? Summer Choir rehearses only on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to sing for the 11:00 am service. We would love to welcome you! For more information contact the Music office (202-537-7553 or dwulff@nationalpres.org).

College Bible Study

Tuesday, July 22 at 7:00 pm

Youth House

Anyone who is college-aged is invited to the Youth House for dinner and Bible study on Tuesday nights to study the Sermon on the Mount while building community and fellowship. Questions? Contact Meghan Thompson (meghanmct123@gmail.com).



**Called
to Care**

Prayer Cards

May we pray for you? Prayer cards are in the guestbook and may be left in the collection plate or the prayer box in the Welcome Center.

careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

Call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Jeremiah 29:12

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!

Scan this QR code to learn more about NPC & get connected:



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.

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.

Get Connected Through Service!

Want to share in faith and fellowship through service? No matter your age, skills, or ability, you can use your gifts to serve our church and our community.

- View upcoming community service opportunities on our [Events](#) page or contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).
- Want to serve at church? Visit our [Serve at Church](#) page or contact Leslie Saum (202-537-7494 or lsaum@nationalpres.org).
- If you're interested in photography, we would love to utilize your skills to capture photos of our NPC family on Sundays. Contact Caroline Etgen (cetgen@nationalpres.org).

Last Week's Narthex Flowers

were given to the glory of God
by Nancy and Paul Piho,
in joyful celebration of the anniversary
of their wedding that took place at NPC
on July 13, 2002.

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
- 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 (lskrine@nationalpres.org).

Prayers

We celebrate with:

Kelsey and Justin Donaldson
on the birth of their daughter.

We pray for:

Unique Learning Center, a Christian ministry strengthening the educational and spiritual lives of children in the Shaw community of Washington, DC.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests
to the Care Office,
careoffice@nationalpres.org
202-537-7540.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary
are given by Stewart McLaurin
honoring the July birthdays of
Senators Elizabeth and Bob Dole
for their lives and legacies of public service.

“Let the little children come to me...” – Matthew 19:14

NPC loves children in worship! Kids learn how to worship God and what it means to be loved and accepted in God's family. As adults, we are blessed with the opportunity to honor our baptismal vows and support the spiritual growth of our youngest disciples as we worship alongside them. If you are worshipping with children nearby, please welcome and encourage them as they grow in their faith.



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