

October 4, 2026
World Communion

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of
God will be taken away from you and
given to a people that produces the
fruits of the kingdom."
Matthew 21:43*



Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Parish Associate
Music

Ministry Directors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Rev. Craig Meek
Rev. Kristin Franke
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)
Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Jill Meek (Children)
Carol Han (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 in Worship:

World Communion Sunday

You are invited to share in the celebration of Communion with churches around the world. If you are celebrating from home, please read the [NPC Online Communion Guidelines](#), available on the NPC website, for preparation instructions.

Club 45

Today, 5:00 pm

Youth House

4th & 5th graders, Club 45 is just for you! Come grow in faith and friendship through fun games, Bible study and more. For more details, contact Jill Meek (jmeek@nationalpres.org).

Youth Group

Today, 6:30 pm

Youth House

Bring a friend to youth group for dinner, Bible study, and games. Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings, beginning with dinner together in the Multipurpose Building. Parents and NPC members are invited to sign up to bring an easy meal to share. For more details, contact Rev. Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org).

Schedule at a Glance

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

Sunday, October 4

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Sunday, October 11

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Early Coffee Hour
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Sandwich Making

Monday, October 12

- NPC Offices Closed

Wednesday, October 14

- 10:30 am: Adult Service Project

Early Coffee Hour

Sunday, October 11, 9:55 am

Stone Hall

In lieu of our usual Sunday School schedule, we will instead be celebrating Confirmation Sunday with coffee, sweet treats, and fellowship! There will not be a Coffee Hour after the 11:00 am service.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, October 11, 11:00 am

Please join us in celebrating the confirmation of our youth! For more information, please contact Rev. Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org).

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 and get connected:



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 Townend

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'ryone;
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)*

INVITATION TO WORLD COMMUNION

Rev. Larsen

People will come from east and west, north and south and will eat in the kingdom of God.

Sasmita Bryant, *Odia (Oriya)*

Geovanny Canizalez, *Spanish*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

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 only 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 of who you really are in the face of Jesus Christ, your Son our Savior.

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 Nicene Creed Rev. Larsen

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:33-46
Pew Bible Page 803

Lake Angehr-Sun

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Larsen

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

SERMON

Belonging in a Complicated World

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. Kristin Franke

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

▲ OFFERING SONG

Cornerstone

Hillsong

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

Christ alone, Cornerstone! Weak made strong in the Savior's love.

Through the storm he is Lord, Lord of all!

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace.

In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

My anchor holds within the veil! *Chorus*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found!

Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless stand before the throne!

Faultless stand before the throne! *Chorus (2x)*

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

Christ the sure and steady anchor in the fury of the storm,
when the winds of doubt blow through me and my sails have all been torn.
In the suff'ring, in the sorrow, when my sinking hopes are few,
I will hold fast to the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor while the tempest rages on,
when temptation claims the battle and it seems the night has won.
Deeper still, then goes the anchor, though I justly stand accused.
I will hold fast to the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor through the floods of unbelief.
Hopeless, somehow, O my soul, now lift your eyes to Calvary.
This my ballast of assurance see his love forever proved.
All my hope is in the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor as we face the wave of death,
when these trials give way to glory, as we draw our final breath,
We will cross that great horizon, clouds behind, and life secured,
And the calm will be the better, for the storms that we endured.

Christ the shore of our salvation, ever faithful, ever true.
We will hold fast to the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Prayer of Response and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Franke

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

This Is Amazing Grace

Phil Wickham

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of glory, the King above all kings.
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that you would take my place,
that you would bear my cross. You would lay down your life,
that I would be set free. Jesus, I sing for...all that you've done for me.*

Who brings our chaos back into order, who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of glory, the King of glory.
Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of glory, the King above all kings. *Chorus*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave. (3x)
Worthy, worthy, worthy! *Chorus*

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Hylton

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Please come forward after worship for confidential prayer
with a member of our prayer team.*

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

K'A Mura

Fela Sowande

from Preludes on Yoruba Folk Melodies

Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 443

O Christ, the Great Foundation

Aurelia

INVITATION TO WORLD COMMUNION

Rev. Larsen

People will come from east and west, north and south and will eat in the kingdom of God.

Serge Duss, *Ukrainian*

Dr. Benjamin Novak, *Hungarian*

Rajendra Nathala, *Telugu*

Dr. Simin Saedi-Wong, *Persian (Farsi)*

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Aurelia

O Jesus, Long-Expected, descended from God's throne,
The stone though once rejected, but now chief Cornerstone,
To you all praise we render in worship without end,
As you in grace and glory to us in mercy bend.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

St. Peter

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

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 only 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 of who you really are in the face of Jesus Christ, your Son our Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

▲ RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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 Nicene Creed Rev. Larsen

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:33-46

Funmi Folarin

Pew Bible Page 803

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Larsen

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

Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.

SERMON

Belonging in a Complicated World

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Bridegroom

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,

To the church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Kristin Franke

OFFERTORY

One Faith, One Hope, One Lord

Craig Courtney

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which he died,

Ephesians 4:4-6, 13

One voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore.

There is one body, one Spirit, as you were called to one hope,

One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, above all, and through all,

Who is in you all.

Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts, we are given to each other

For the unity of faith, to grow in the knowledge of God, in the fullness of Christ.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Franke

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Congregation joining as able

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;

This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought or storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striving cease!

My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh: Fulness of God in helpless babe!

This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save;

But by the cross where Jesus died, I'm reconciled and justified;

For every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;

From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand;

Till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

With Heather and Tessa Green, violins

Prayer of Response and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Franke

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 252

O Lord, You Are My God and King

Jerusalem

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Aurelia

Called forth from every nation, one people of the Lord,

Proclaiming Christ's salvation, God's reconciling Word,

We serve God's world together, with zealous hearts and pure,

While sov'reignly God gathers a kingdom to endure.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Franke

▲ POSTLUDE

Thaxted

Gustav Holst

Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Please come forward after worship for confidential prayer
with a member of our prayer team.*

*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
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School for All Ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- **5:00 pm:** Club 45
- **6:30 pm:** Youth Group

Childcare

Childcare is available on the second floor of the main church building from 8:30 am until the close of the 11:00 am worship service. To maintain a safe environment, we have age guidelines for each room. Babies and crawlers are in Room 207. Strong walkers and 2-year-olds are in Room 230. 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds are in Room 231.

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.

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 Rooms 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.

Fall 2026 Adult Discipleship Classes

For more information, check our [website](#).
Classes will not meet Sunday, October 11.

20s/30s (Garden Room A)

First Corinthians (Chapel)

Parent Gathering (Jones Hall in the Education Building)

The Art of Marriage (Room 109)

The Book of Isaiah (Garden Rooms B & C)

The Dangerous Act of Loving One's Neighbor (Room 209)

After the Revolution: Religion in the New Republic (Starting Nov. 1)



**Called
to Care**

The Care and Joy List

Would you like to be on or receive our Care and Joy list, for those who want our congregation to pray for them? careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and thanksgivings be made for everyone.*

1 Timothy 2:1

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Choir

Love to sing? The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm and Sunday mornings at 10:15 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).

Second Sunday Sandwich Making Sunday, October 11, 12:15 pm Stone Hall

All are invited to make hundreds of sandwiches for Martha's Table, a nonprofit that works alongside its neighbors to support those in need. This is a great event for the whole family!

Adult Service Project & Luncheon Wednesday, October 14, 10:30 am Stone Hall

Come for a morning of service and fellowship! We'll work together on a variety of projects supporting some of our local Missions Partners and helping care for the life of our church.

Women's Ministry Fall Brunch Saturday, October 24, 12:00 pm Stone Fellowship Hall

The fall brunch is always a special time to gather around the table to enjoy a delicious meal, catch up with friends, reflect on our faith, and enjoy the gift of being together. Christian author and teacher, Melissa Overmyer, will speak on the shape of God's love among us. Register on our [website](https://www.nationalpres.org/website) by October 19, or for more information, please email women@nationalpres.org.

Need a Notary? We've Got You Covered!

Bring your documents to get notarized for free, available most weekdays from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.
Please email bookkeeper@nationalpres.org for more information.

Reserve your place in the Festival Choir!

Comfort and Joy

Our Coming Savior in

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FESTIVAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Rehearsals for this musical masterpiece begin 10 am on Saturday, November 7

Rehearsal Schedule

Saturday Rehearsals 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

November 7, 14, 21 and December 5

Performance Weekend Rehearsals

Friday, December 11 from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

For information or to immediately sign up go to www.nationalpres.org/messiah-2026,
or call the NPC Music Office at 202-537-7553.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

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,

our community, and our world. Scan the QR code to learn more about the opportunities below.



- View upcoming community service opportunities on our [Events](#) page or contact Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).
- Want to help on Sundays? Visit our [Serve at Church](#) page or contact Carol Han (chan@nationalpres.org).
- If you're interested in photography, we would love to utilize your skills to capture photos on Sundays. Contact communications@nationalpres.org.

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 give now scan the QR code or text "NPC" to 833-414-9444. For other ways to give go to nationalpres.org/giving, call our Finance Office at 202-537-7495, or email our Director of Finance and Administration at lskrine@nationalpres.org.



Prayers

We mourn:

the passing of
Marianne McCulloch

We pray for:

Bethlehem Bible College, as they prepare Christian leaders to serve churches and communities in the Middle East.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,
careoffice@nationalpres.org
202-537-7537.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory of Mr. Kang Ming Szeto by his daughter.

“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 worshiping with children nearby, please welcome and encourage them as they grow in their faith.



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