

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.*

Psalm 19:1



Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Rev. Craig Meek
Kristin Franke

Parish Associate
Music

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)

Ministry Directors

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!

Third Grade Milestone: The Bible

Today during 11:00 am worship, our third graders will lead a responsive scripture reading and receive their Bibles as part of their Milestone in Worship. During Sunday School, each grade, Kindergarten through 5th, learns a "Milestone in Worship," an element of our worship liturgy. Milestones help children participate in worship and develop a language of faith. Please join us in praying for the hearts of these young people as they receive the gift of God's Word.

Sunday Sandwich Making

Today, 12:15 pm

Stone Fellowship 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!

Grief Group

Today, 12:30 pm

On March 15, 2026, Care Ministries will begin an eight-week class to offer healing and provide support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Please email careoffice@nationalpres.org or call (202) 537-7537 if interested in attending.

Ordination of Associate Pastor

Kristin Franke

Today, 3:00 pm

Sanctuary

The National Capital Presbytery joyfully invites you to the Service of Ordination for Kristin Franke as Associate Pastor for Next Generation Formation at the National Presbyterian Church. The church nursery will be open for infants to Pre-K. Following the service, there will be a reception in Stone Fellowship Hall.

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, March 15

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- 12:15 pm: Sunday Sandwich Making
- 12:30 pm: Grief Group
- 3:00 pm: Ordination of Kristin Franke

Sunday, March 22

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER EVENTS

Palm Sunday, March 29

- Worship: 8:45 & 11:00 am
- Concert: 5:00 pm
Music of Felix Mendelssohn

Maunder Thursday, April 2

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

Good Friday, April 3

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

Easter Sunday, April 5

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

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Kevin Rose, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ OPENING SONG All Creatures of Our God and King arr. David Crowder

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing:

O praise him, 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 heaven along,

O praise him, Alleluia!

Thou, rising moon in praise rejoice! Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless! And worship him 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!

O Alleluia! Alleluia! (3x) O Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Larsen

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Let our souls praise you, Lord. Let us praise you for your mercy and kindness.

Without ceasing, your whole creation speaks your praise. Your creation helps us rise up to you and wonder at your love. In that solemn wonder we find grace and strength to come to you in our need: the finite to the infinite, and children to their father, for forgiveness, cleansing, restoration, and peace.

Based on Augustine of Hippo

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

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

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Nettleton*

Glory be to God the Father, glory also to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit,

Ever Three and ever One;

As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be;

Alleluia and thanksgiving, now and through eternity.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

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

Psalm 19:1-4a; Romans 1:20
Pew Bible Pages 433; 914

Elder John Neely

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Melanie Lenhard
Associate 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

Encountering God More Deeply
When Creation Preaches

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. Craig Meek

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

▲ OFFERING SONG

Oceans

Joel Houston

You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail,
And there I find you in the mystery; in oceans deep, my faith will stand.

*And I will call upon your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in your embrace
for I am yours and you are mine.*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, your sovereign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
you've never failed and you won't start now.

*So I will call upon your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in your embrace
for I am yours and you are mine.*

Spirit, lead me where my trust is without borders;
let me walk upon the waters wherever you would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior. (2x)

*And I will call upon your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in your embrace
for I am yours and you are mine*

▲ 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!

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Adagio in C, K. 356 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 473 For the Beauty of the Earth Dix

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Larsen

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE Ellacombe

O Lord, our God, how excellent, how glorious is your name.

Your majesty surrounds the earth, and children sing your fame.

The heavens shout your handiwork; we stand beneath in awe,

To think the One who made all things should care for us at all.

Fred R. Anderson

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Rev. Larsen

Let our souls praise you, Lord. Let us praise you for your mercy and kindness.

Without ceasing, your whole creation speaks your praise. Your creation helps us rise up to you and wonder at your love. In that solemn wonder we find grace and strength to come to you in our need: the finite to the infinite, and children to their father, for forgiveness, cleansing, restoration, and peace.

Based on Augustine of Hippo

SILENT CONFESSION AND KYRIE *sung first by the choir, then the congregation*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Gloria Patri

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

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

Amen, amen.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed 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

Psalm 19:1-4a; Romans 1:20
Pew Bible Pages 433; 914

Elder Gerri Hall

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

THIRD GRADE MILESTONE RESPONSIVE READING

Third Grade Sunday School

Please respond with bold text.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow: it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105

I find my delight in your commandments, because I love them.

Psalm 119:47

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

Psalm 19:7a

The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

Psalm 19:7b

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold.

Psalm 19:10a

Sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Psalm 19:10b

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8

Presentation of Bibles

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

SERMON

*Encountering God More Deeply
When Creation Preaches*

Dr. Hylton

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Royal Oak

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.*

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. Cecil Frances Alexander

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Craig Meek

OFFERTORY

The Heavens Are Telling

Franz Josef Haydn

The heaven are telling the glory of God;

The Creation

with wonders of his work resounds the firmament.

Revealed are his ways from day unto day, by night that is gone to following night.

In ev'ry land is known the word; eve'ry ear will hearken, never tongue be dumb.

With Sheri Jackson, Luke Schmidt, and Paul Grosvenor

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

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 service. To maintain a safe environment, we have new age guidelines for each room, using the child's age as of September 30, 2025. Babies-17 months are in Room 207. Early Toddlers (18 months-2 years old) are in Room 230. 3s and 4s are in the Toddler Room (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.

Adult Sunday School

- **Church in Late Antiquity**, R.V. Seep (*Chapel & Online*)
- **Discovering the Gospel of John**, Margaret Gardner (*Garden Room C*)
- **Financial Peace University**, Megan Schmoll & Leah Skrine (*Garden Room A*)
- **The Listening Life**, Ginny Beeson & Lewrene Glaser (*Room 209*)
- **Parent Gathering** (*Jones Hall, National Presbyterian School*)

Visit our [website](#) for descriptions and more information.



**Called
to Care**

The Deacons' Assistance Fund offers financial assistance to members of our church experiencing hardship. This fund is solely supported by the generosity of our congregation. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7537

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Hebrews 13:16

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Praise Band

Do you sing or play bass, drums, guitar, or another instrument? Our contemporary worship band is looking for volunteer musicians to join our rotating roster. Participation does not need to be weekly and is Sunday mornings only. You are welcome to "try it out" if interested. If you love music and are interested in serving through worship, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to our fabulous band leader, Joanna Zorack-Greene (jzorackgreene@nationalpres.org), for more information.

Palm Sunday Concert:

Music of Felix Mendelssohn

Sunday, March 29, 5:00 pm

Join us for two of Mendelssohn's most brilliant and beloved choral works, characterized by composer Robert Schumann as the very highest expressions of sacred music.

NPC's Festival Choir and Orchestra will mark the events of Palm Sunday and Christ's passion that followed with a deeply moving performance of "As the Hart Pants," Op. 42, No. 1 and "Hymn of Praise," Op. 52. You will not want to miss it!

Holy Week Hands-on Prayer Stations

**Thursday, April 2 & Friday, April 3
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Reflect on the events of Holy Week as you journey through a series of interactive prayer stations, designed to take 20-30 minutes in all. Each station offers something to hold or touch as you recount a moment from Holy Week and respond with a hands-on prayer. These prayer stations are for all ages and are designed especially with children and families in mind. Questions, email Jill Meek (jmeek@nationalpres.org) for more information.

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.

Associate for Youth Ministries

NPC is hiring an Associate for Youth Ministries. The ideal candidate has a heart for reaching middle school and high school youth with the Good News of Jesus Christ. This position will be responsible for all aspects of weekly youth programs and special events, as well as maintaining the relational outreach and connection aspect of the Youth Ministry.

For more information and to apply, visit

nationalpres.org/jobs.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Joyce Yoder in loving memory of her son, Nathan Yoder. Nathan, faced with challenges in his life, approached each challenge with courage and determination. May his life be an inspiration to all.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God by the History & Archives Ministry in loving memory of Ellie Heginbotham

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, 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 Serve Director 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.

NPC Safe Practices for Children & Youth

NPC prioritizes the safety of the children and youth in our ministries. For more details on our church's Safe Practices Policy, please visit our Children's or Youth webpages to find a link to the complete policy.

Your Giving Makes a Difference

Because of your generosity and faithfulness last year, our church was able to balance the budget and continue fulfilling the mission God entrusted to us. We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us and for your partnership in God's work. We give thanks for you and for all that was accomplished together in 2025.

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 pray for:

God's mercy to pour out on the brokenhearted.

We celebrate with:

Cece and Richard Lee on the birth of their daughter.

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 202-537-7537.

Per Capita

The National Capital Presbytery has set the per capita rate at \$48.56 per person, which is the amount NPC pays for each active member in our congregation. You may scan the QR Code if you would like to contribute toward this cost.



“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.



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW
WASHINGTON DC 20016
202.537.0800
WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG



[/NATIONALPRES](#)

[@NATIONALPRES](#)