

March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was
in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'*
Matthew 21:10



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)

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' triumphal 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.

Today at 5 pm!

MUSIC OF FELIX MENDELSSOHN

AS THE HART PANTS, OP. 42, NO. 1

SONGS WITHOUT WORDS, OP. 19, NO. 1

HYMN OF PRAISE, OP. 52

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FESTIVAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

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, [visit our website](#).

Holy Week Interactive Prayer Stations

Thursday, April 2 & Friday, April 3

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 2 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 3 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 5 at 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30 am

He is not here; for he is risen, as he said

- Matthew 28:6. Celebrate the Lord's triumphant resurrection with us on Easter Sunday at worship in the Sanctuary and online on our [watch webpage](#). 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 a 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).

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Zechariah 9:9 Rev. Lisa Larsen

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

Rev. Larsen

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.

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 Rev. Larsen
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 Rev. Larsen
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 Matthew 21:1-11 Elder J. Mills Williams
Pew Bible page 802

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 *Encountering God More Deeply* Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
The King We Didn't Expect

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

RESPONSE *Winchester New*
Choir

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosannas cry;
While multitudes prepare your way, to truth the hardened turn blind eye.

Congregation

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Craig Meek

OFFERTORY

Sanctus

Charles Gounod

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis! Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.

With Luke Schmidt, tenor

▲ DOXOLOGY

Old Hundreth

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

Rev. Meek

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

Bourbon

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be;

Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Meek

▲ POSTLUDE

Processional

Grayston Ives
Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Please come forward after worship for confidential prayer
with one of our Deacons or Stephen Ministers.*

*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

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**

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who receive special training to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation who are experiencing grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other life difficulties. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7537

*Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed;
defend the orphan; plead for the widow.*

Isaiah 1:17

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

College Student Luncheon

Today, 12:15 pm

Parlor

College students are invited to bring a friend and enjoy lunch after 11:00 am worship. Come get to know NPC better, and help us get to know you better! No RSVP necessary. Contact Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org) with any questions.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 am

Stone Fellowship Hall

Our speaker will be Jesse Anderson, site director for Central Union Mission - NOVA, one of NPC's mission partners. Come learn about all the great ministries offered at this relatively new location in Arlington, VA. Please email grow@nationalpres.org for more information.

Great Day of Service

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 am-1:00 pm

Stone Fellowship Hall

You're invited to join friends and neighbors as we come together as a church community to serve our city, support some of our local mission partners, and fight food insecurity both near and far. All ages are welcome! Volunteer by packing meal kits, welcoming and reading with refugee families, collecting essential food and clothing, building a home with Habitat for Humanity, or helping at Central Union Mission's Men's Shelter.

For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org) or visit our [Events page](#).

Week at a Glance

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

Palm Sunday, March 29

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: College Student Luncheon
- 5:00 pm: Concert - *Music of Mendelssohn*

Maundy Thursday, April 2

- 3:00 pm: Interactive Prayer Stations
- 7:00 pm: Worship & Communion

Good Friday, April 3

- 3:00 pm: Interactive Prayer Stations
- 7:00 pm: Worship

Easter Sunday, April 5

- 8:30 am: Easter Worship
 - *Egg Hunt following worship, Garden*
- 10:00 am: Easter Worship
 - *Egg Hunt following worship, Playground*
- 11:30 am: Easter Worship

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 (chan@nationalpres.org).

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!

Join Our Team!

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.

Ministry Internship Hub

This fall, NPC is running a Ministry Internship Hub, and hiring 4-6 ministry interns in a variety of areas. These internships are open to any college-aged students interested in serving part time at NPC, and exploring conversations about leadership and spiritual development. Primary hours of work will be Sunday mornings, with an additional group supervision meeting to be scheduled during the week.

For more information and to apply, visit nationalpres.org/jobs, or email Kristin Franke (kfranke@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!

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.

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:

Foundation For Peace, a Christian ministry dedicated to forging connections between the US and materially impoverished areas of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Kenya.

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 loving memory of Doris Harmon by Susan and Richard Meyer.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory of G. Joseph Sears on the occasion of his April 3rd birthday with love from his wife Margaret Smith Sears

“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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