

March 8, 2026  
Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome to  
**NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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

*They said to each other,  
"Were not our hearts burning within us  
while he was talking to us on the road,  
while he was opening the scriptures to us?"*

Luke 24:32

Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.  
Rev. Lisa Larsen  
Rev. Craig Meek  
Kristin Franke  
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus  
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)  
Todd Fickley (Organist)  
Joanna Zorack-Greene  
(Contemporary Music Leader)

Parish Associate  
Music

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](http://nationalpres.org). Questions? Email us at [info@nationalpres.org](mailto:info@nationalpres.org)!

## Serve Summit:

*Come Learn. Come Connect. Come Serve.*

**Today, 12:30 pm**

### Garden Rooms

All are invited to enjoy a delicious lunch and discover the many transformational mission partnerships and service opportunities at National Presbyterian Church—locally, nationally, and around the world. Connect with fellow NPC members and explore meaningful ways to get involved and make a difference. Together, we'll reflect on the impact of the Serve Ministries and consider the next step God may be calling you to take as you join in the work of His Kingdom.

### Adult Service Project & Luncheon

**Wednesday, March 11, 10:30 am**

#### Stone Fellowship Hall

You are invited for a special morning of community service, fellowship, and lunch. From hands-on service to heartwarming connection, this is a wonderful opportunity to love our community and enjoy time together. Questions? Contact Jonathan Edwards ([jedwards@nationalpres.org](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org)).

### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, March 14, 8:00 am**

#### Stone Fellowship Hall

Men are invited to join us in-person at NPC on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Our speaker this month will be Rev. Jimmie Hawkins who currently serves as the Director of Advocacy office of PC (USA). Email [grow@nationalpres.org](mailto:grow@nationalpres.org) for more information.

## Week at a Glance

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

### Sunday, March 8

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

### Wednesday, March 11

- 10:30 am: Adult Service Project & Luncheon

### Saturday, March 14

- 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast

### 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 Sandwich Making

**Sunday, March 15, 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!

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER EVENTS

### Palm Sunday, March 29

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

### Maundy 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 Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

▲ OPENING SONG You Are My Vision Rend Collective

You are my vision, O King of my heart. Nothing else satisfies—only you, Lord!

You are my best thought, by day or by night.

Waking or sleeping, your presence my light!

You are my wisdom. You are my true word. I ever with you and you with me, Lord!

You're my great Father and I'm your true son!

You dwell inside me together we're one.

You are my battle-shield, sword for the fight. You are my dignity. You're my delight!

You're my soul's shelter and you're my high tower.

Come raise me heavenward, O Power of my power!

I don't want riches or vain empty praise. You're my inheritance, now and always!

You and you only, the first in my heart.

High King of heaven, my treasure you are!

High King of heaven, when victory's won, may I reach heaven's joy,

O bright heaven's Son!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Dr. Hylton

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

In me there is darkness, but with you there is light.

I am lonely, but you never leave me.

I am feeble in heart, but with you there is strength.

I am restless, but with you there is peace.

In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience.

I am full of sin, but with you is full forgiveness.

Your ways are past understanding, but you know the way for me. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Hylton

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-32  
*Pew Bible Pages 860-861*

Elder Peter Hogge

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Hylton

*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*  
 Encountering God in Scripture

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

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**                      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.

▲ 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 Freedom Brett Younker and Kristian Stanfill

Step out of the shadows, step out of the grave.

Break into the wild and don't be afraid.

*Pre-Chorus*

*Run into wide open spaces; grace is waiting for you.*

*Dance like the weight has been lifted; grace is waiting.*

*Chorus*

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom, there is freedom.*

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom, there is freedom.*

*Come out of the dark, just as you are, into the fullness of his love.*

*For the Spirit is here; let there be freedom; let there be freedom!*

Bring all of your burdens; bring all of your scars.

Come back to communion, come back to the start. *Pre-Chorus, Chorus*

Chains will fall, prisons shake at the sound of Jesus' name.

Lives made whole, hearts awake at the sound of Jesus' name. *Chorus*

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Meek

▲ SENDING NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

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

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315



- ▲ **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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Hylton

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-32  
*Pew Bible Pages 860-861*

Beverly Tam

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Hylton

*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*  
 Encountering God in Scripture

Rev. Craig Meek

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

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Vater unser*

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
 O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
 We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
 A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

William Walsham How

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

OFFERTORY

Da pacem Domine  
 English Translation: *Grant us peace, O Lord, in our days,  
 for there is none other who fights for us but you, our God.*

Brett D. Epperson

Penn State Glee Club

▲ **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.



# 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.



### Like to cook?

Families with new babies or members with health challenges would welcome meals. [careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org) / 202-537-7537

*For I was hungry and you gave me food.*  
Matthew 25:35

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Grief Group**

**Sunday, March 15, 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](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org) or call (202) 537-7537 if interested in attending.

## **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](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org)) for more information.

## **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](mailto:jzorackgreene@nationalpres.org)) for more information.

### **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](http://nationalpres.org/jobs).

# 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](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org)).
- Want to help on Sundays? Visit our [Serve at Church](#) page or contact Carol Han ([chan@nationalpres.org](mailto: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](mailto:communications@nationalpres.org).

## Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given in loving memory of Alfred S. Perry, remembering his March 8th birthday.

## 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](https://nationalpres.org/giving), call our Finance Office at 202-537-7495, or email our Director of Finance and Administration at [lskrine@nationalpres.org](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org).



## Prayers

### We pray for:

God's word to resonate in our hearts.

### 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) 202-537-7537.

## 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 below 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](#)