

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Staying Connected in Christ

11:00 am Online Worship, February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Prelude on Caithness

Craig Phillips
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though nations are in an uproar and the kingdoms totter.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46: 1-7

HYMN

Father, We Praise Thee

Christe sanctorum

1. Father, we praise thee, now the night is over;
Active and watchful, stand we all before thee;
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation: Thus we adore thee.
2. Monarch of all things, fit us for thy mansions;
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
Bring us to heaven, where thy saints united joy without ending.
3. All holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us thy salvation.
Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding through all creation.

Gregory the Great

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Donna Marsh

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the desires of our own hearts.
We have broken your holy laws.
We have left undone the things we ought to have done,
and have done the things we ought not to have done.

But you, Lord, are rich in mercy.

According to your promises declared to us in Jesus Christ our Lord,
spare us when we confess our faults, and restore us when we repent.
Grant, most merciful Father, for his sake, that we would always live
a godly, righteous, and faithful life; to the glory of your holy name.

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

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Dr. Renwick

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION AND BAPTISM

Dr. Renwick and Deacon John DeSarbo

Exchange of Vows

Baptism

Sara Lundberg Abby Plaisance

Prayer *in unison*

God of love, we rejoice to receive these newest brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

May they discover your grace in Jesus Christ, through membership in this church family.

May your love hold them, your truth guide them, your joy delight them.

Gracious God, touch us all again this day with your grace of belonging.

**Give us new lives for old, new spirits, new faith, and new commitment
in place of all that has grown tired or stale in our lives.**

We have heard your call and are made new by your Spirit.

**So may we rise and go from here to discover whatever awaits us, in joy and in trust.
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:15c-21

Elder John Forlines

When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

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

SERMON

Triumphing Through Suffering
Romans 8:22-39; 5:1-4

Dr. David Renwick

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

RESPONSE *Please sing*

Wer nur den lieben Gott

If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine own part faithfully;
Trust the rich promises of grace, so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need the soul secured by trust indeed.

Georg Neumark

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Marsh

One: What is our chief end in life?

All: To glorify God, and enjoy God forever!

One: What is our only comfort in life and in death?

**All: That we belong body and soul in life and in death,
not to ourselves, but to our faithful savior, Jesus Christ,
who, at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all our sins,
and who, by his Holy Spirit, also assures us of eternal life and makes us
wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

Shorter and Heidelberg Catechisms, adapted

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Marsh

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Eric Nelson

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.
My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
Hear him, ye deaf! His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ!
Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy!

Azmon

Charles Wesley

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

Rev. Katie Francis

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus hath fled.
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."
4. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

"K" in *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787

BENEDICTION

Dr. Renwick

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

My Faithful Heart Rejoices, Op. 122, No. 4

Johannes Brahms
Mr. Fickley

Let's Stay Connected! Announcements for You

Prayers

We pray for:

Bob English, David Low and Rick Polhamus

We pray for our mission partners, including: Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) as they create jobs, foster education, build and renovate homes, and offer support to Palestinian believers.

Please submit prayer requests to:
Liz Martin, lmartin@nationalpres.org,
202.537.7540

New Member Recognition

We welcome our newest members into the NPC church family!

Frank Bailey, Rockville, MD
Rick Denecke, Potomac, MD
Neil Evans, Washington, DC
Sam Fosdick, Bethesda, MD
Melissa Johnson, Falls Church, VA
Tom Johnson, Falls Church, VA
Pamela Loftis, Graham, TX
Sara Lundberg, Rockville, MD **Baptism*
Suzanne Morgan, Charles Town, WV
Abby Plaisance, Washington, DC **Baptism*
Colin Plaisance, Washington, DC
Julie Raffensperger, Bethesda, MD
Brandy Treaster, Silver Spring, MD
Grant Treaster, Silver Spring, MD

If you are interested in membership here at National or just want to learn more about faith or NPC, come to the next class on Apr 17 & 24, 2021. Please contact Kemet Rakiatu krakiatu@nationalpres.org or call (202) 537- 7578.

Floral Dedication

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by John and Catherine Thomas in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

Learn & Grow

Lenten Vespers:

7:00 pm Wednesdays

NPC's pastors teach about Spiritual Gifts, based on Romans 12, on Wednesday evenings online at 7:00 pm. This continues to March 24, before Holy Week.

Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School

You are invited to join us! You can check out our options for each group here:

- [Adult Sunday School info](#)
- [Children Sunday School info](#)
- [Youth Sunday School info](#)

Giving More to Missions:

A message from John Gregg, Clerk of Session

In our Strategic Plan, NPC established the challenging goal of increasing our giving to missions external to the church to 20% of the monies received through tithes and offerings. Despite steady increases, we were unable to achieve the goal, until now. With a budget surplus for FY 2020, Session approved, and the Serve Council has implemented additional giving so that we have achieved that goal for FY2020! We pray to keep it up in 2021.

Laser Tag with Camp Ligonier

Join us at NPC on March 12 for fun games of laser tag with representatives from Camp Ligonier.

- 1st – 5th graders will play 7:00-8:00 pm and should [click here](#) to register.
- Youth will play 8:00-9:00 pm and should [click here](#) to register.

We'll meet at the Agencies Building parking lot.

Vacation Bible School

Save the date! NPC will be hosting Vacation Bible School June 28 - July 2, 2021. We are planning to be outdoors on the NPC Campus. Registration will start soon. Due to space constraints and social-distancing requirements, we are only able to accept campers from the NPC and NPS community. Join us for this fun, faith-filled adventure! For more information, please contact mленhard@nationalpres.org.

Connect LIVE on Zoom

Immediately following online worship, you are invited to a casual virtual gathering where you can "pass the peace of Christ" with others and enjoy conversation. To join in, simply click the "Connect LIVE" button above the livestream window after the service.

Prayer LIVE

Would you like to pray with a live person after worship? Please call 12-1 pm. A Pastor, Stephen Minister, or Deacon will be prepared to take your call. If all lines are busy, please leave a voicemail with your name and number and you will receive a return call. Phone: (202) 800-9121.

Re-gathering Volunteers Needed

Step one to re-gathering is to recruit and train volunteers to act as greeters, guides and ushers. If you would like to help please [click here](#) to fill in the form, and we will be in touch.

2020 Giving Statements have been mailed. Thank you for your contributions to National! If you do not receive your statement in the next few days, please contact our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine at lskrine@nationalpres.org or (202) 537-7484.

Your Giving and Commitments Make a Difference: Thank you!

Thank you! Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ at this critical time. Not yet made a gift online or by phone? For easy and safe online giving, please visit nationalpres.org/giving. To give by phone, just text "NPC" to 77977.

These pandemic days are just plain hard, yet we are in this together! The Care/Connections staff have prepared resources that might help on topics like isolation, anxiety, and difficult conversations. Use them on your own or share with a friend. Find these resources on the [Care webpage](#) or reach out to [Liz Martin](#) in the Care Office if we can help.

Dr. Renwick's Teaching Series are now on YouTube

Want to grow in faith? [Click here](#) to watch

- *Colossians*
- *Galatians*
- *Matters of Race*

...and to see other classes on our YouTube channel.