

# NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Staying Connected in Christ*

11:00 am Online Worship, March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

### WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

**PRELUDE**

Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

**CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. David Renwick

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN** *please sing!*

For the Beauty of the Earth

*Dix*

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
**Refrain**  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*
2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: **Refrain**
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: **Refrain**
4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: **Refrain**
5. For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
Off'ring up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love: **Refrain**

Todd Fickley, organ

**CONFESSION OF SIN** *in unison*

Rev. Donna Marsh

Almighty and merciful God,

you have given a new commandment that we should love one another,  
yet in sin and selfishness we do not fulfill it.

Forgive us, O Lord,

and give us grace to love all in Jesus' name.

Make us gentle, courteous, and forbearing.

Direct our lives that in word and deed we may each look to the good of others.

Hallow all our friendships by the blessing of your Spirit;

for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

B. F. Westcott

**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

**SCRIPTURE**

Romans 12:9-21

Dr. Robert Betz

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

<sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

<sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another;

do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

<sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

<sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written,

*'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'* <sup>20</sup>No, *'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.'*

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

**SERMON**

Empowered for Love and Joy

Dr. Renwick

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

**DUET RESPONSE**

How Great Is This Love

Chris Renzema

How great is this love, oh it's moving all our mountains, this perfect love is casting out our fear.

How great this love, oh it welcomes us like family, and anywhere we go it meets us there.

*He is good, and he is God. What we earned: It's not what we got; and he is just, yet oh so kind.*

*What we deserve: It's not what we find. What more can we say about him? Our God is love.*

How great this love, oh it's faithful through our failures; this trusted love is with us till the end.

How great this love, oh it's closer than a brother; and this is love: He died so we could live.

*We know our God is love. This is enough: To know our God is love.*

Joanna Zorack-Greene and Ethan Greene

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

Rev. Marsh

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.

**OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**

Rev. Marsh

I Will Be a Child of Peace

Elaine Hagenberg

O Holy Father, I will be a child of peace and purity,

For well I know thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.

Old Shaker Song

**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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Katie Francis

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** *please sing*

Lift High the Cross

*Crucifer*

**Refrain**

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim*

*till all the world adore his sacred name.*

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**
2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. **Refrain**
3. O, Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
Your death has brought us life eternally. **Refrain**

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory. *Refrain*

**BENEDICTION**

Dr. Renwick

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

O World, I Must Leave You, Op. 122, No. 11

Johannes Brahms  
Mr. Fickley

# Let's Stay Connected! Announcements for You

## Prayers

*We pray for:* Joy Blair

*We grieve the death of:*  
David Wherry on March 7

*We pray for our mission partners:*  
International Justice Mission works for justice for people who are oppressed, enslaved and trafficked.

*Please submit prayer requests to:*  
Liz Martin, [lmartin@nationalpres.org](mailto:lmartin@nationalpres.org),  
202.537.7540

## Relief for Texas

As many communities in Texas face long roads of recovery after devastating winter storms, NPC is sending \$5,000 of Disaster Relief funds to [OurCalling](#), a Dallas based Christian ministry which is very similar to Central Union Mission here in DC. You can see them in action and listen to their Executive Director's powerful witness in [this Today Show story](#). These funds go with our love and prayers for the many NPC friends and family members with ties to Texas.

## Floral Dedication

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Ruth Olive Rottstedt Anderson by her son, Mr. J. Theodore Anderson.

## You are invited to celebrate Easter with us!

*He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Matthew 28:6*

Come and discover that this is the best news of all! This season, we will journey together through Jesus' sacrifice for our salvation to his resurrection and victory over the darkness.

### Leading up to Easter

- To March 24: Vespers every Wednesday evening | 7:00 pm online
- March 27: Palm Pickup Events | Pickup 4-5pm | Picnic 5:00 pm
- March 28: Palm Sunday Service | 11:00 am online
- April 1&2: 24-Hour Holy Week Prayer Vigil | 8:00 pm-8:00 pm
- April 1: Maundy Thursday Service | 7:00 pm online
- April 2: Good Friday Service | 7:00 pm online and in person

### April 4, Easter Sunday Rejoice with us in the resurrection of our Lord!

- 8:30 am Traditional Service Online
- 9:30 am In-Person Outdoor Service in the NPC parking lot
- 11:00 am Traditional Service Online

Please [click here](#) for all the details.

### **Palms with Pastors**

On Saturday, March 27, 4:00-5:00 pm, swing by NPC to pick up your palm branches for Palm Sunday and have a chance to say hi to the NPC pastors. The pastors are looking forward to connecting with you at the Stone Hall entrance!

### **Family “Palm Pickup” Picnic Saturday, March 27, 4:30 pm**

After stopping by NPC to pick up your palms bring your picnic and picnic blanket and join us on the Agencies Building lawn. We will have a socially distanced picnic together. Come reconnect with friends! Please [click here](#) to register.

### **Good Friday Online and In-Person**

NPC's traditional Good Friday service will be offered online at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 2. In addition, up to 70 people may register to attend this service in person. **If you wish to attend in person, please [click here](#) to register.**

Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Masks are required, and in person attendees should plan to arrive by 6:30 pm for the 7:00 pm service. Note that Communion is not part of the Good Friday service.

### **Holy Week Prayer Vigil**

Please join your National Presbyterian Church family and friends this Holy Week for a 24-hour Prayer Vigil.

- Starts: 8:00 pm, April 1, Maundy Thursday
  - Ends: 8:00 pm, April 2, Good Friday
- In preparation for Easter, we will lift up the burdens of these days of uncertainty, anticipating the joy of the ultimate resurrection victory on Easter morning. [Please click here](#) for more info, resources and to sign up.

### **Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class**

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey on the Pathway of Christian Discipleship. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two half-day virtual Pathway classes on Saturday, Apr 17 and Saturday, Apr 24. [Click here](#) for more information or contact Kemet Rakiatu to register by April 7 at [KRakiatu@NationalPres.org](mailto:KRakiatu@NationalPres.org) or 202 537-7578.

### **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 is now open here](#). 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! Please contact [mlenhard@nationalpres.org](mailto:mlenhard@nationalpres.org) for more information. Youth wishing to serve at VBS may [sign up here](#).

### **Learn & Grow**

#### **Lenten Vespers**

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](#)

### **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.

### **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](http://nationalpres.org/giving). To give by phone, just text “NPC” to 77977.

### **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.

**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.

### **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.