



**“WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY,
AND JESUS IS LORD”**

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Northeastern Presbyterian Church

2112 Varnum Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018

Telephone: (202) 526-1730 Fax: (202) 526-5900

Email: admin@nepc-dc.org; Website: <http://nepc-dc.org>.

Office Hours

Pastor At Church Wednesday Mornings and by Appointment

Pastor Mark Greiner Email: pastormfg@gmail.com Cell 301.310.5600



Welcome to Northeastern Presbyterian Church

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN PRAISE AND PRAYER

+ Please stand if able

PRELUDE

+ INTROIT

The Chancel Choir

+ INVOCATION

+ CALL TO WORSHIP John 12:20-33

Today's Word of Lent is from John 12:20-33. The arrival of some Gentiles revealed to Jesus that His time had come; His purpose for coming to earth had always been to give His life for the "many". And now we must ask if we are willing to follow Him there. Are you ready?

Let us Worship God,
Each day is a gift from God,
**each moment is that opportunity to reach out
in service to all creation.**

Each day is a reminder of the new covenant:
**not written on stone tablets easily broken,
but inscribed on our hearts filled with joy and hope.**

Each day we draw closer to God:
**who has forgotten more than we ever learn;
who has forgiven us more than we ever acknowledge.**

+ OPENING HYMN - #192 (SOZ) "We've Come this Far By Faith"

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We pray to be made new, together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from the Iona Community)

- One** O God of life, eternity cannot hold you, nor can our little words catch the magnificence of your kindness. Yet in the space of our hearts and in silence you can come close and repair us ...
{moment of silence} ... God of life, grant us your forgiveness.
- All** **For our careless thoughts, for our thoughtless deeds, for our empty speech and the worlds with which we wounded ... *[moment of silence]* ...**
- One** O God of life, grant us your forgiveness,
- All** **For our false desires, for our hateful actions, for our wastefulness, and for all we left untended ... *[moment of silence]* ...**
- One** O loving Christ, hanged on a tree, yet risen in the morning, scatter the sin from our souls as the mist from the hills; begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.
- All** **In you we place our hope, our great hope, our living hope, this day and evermore, Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

- One** "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! All this is from God, to whom we have been reconciled through Christ." (2 *Corinthians 5:17, 18a*) Rejoice! In Christ, we are forgiven.
- All** **We are a new creation! Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

PASSING THE PEACE (*Unmuted devices and turn on cameras to greet one another in love*)

- One:** May the peace of Christ be with you!
- Many:** **And also, with you! Peace be with you!**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM SELECTION

The Chancel Choir

THE OFFERING

Use your bank's online bill-paying options
Mail your check to the church
2112 Varnum St., NE
Washington, DC 20018

Go to nepc-dc.org
Click on Donate or Cash App at the bottom of the page

+ THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!**

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

Loving Presence, in whom we live and move and have our being, Author of every good and perfect gift, thank you. You dwell in us, our hearts, your church. Thank you. In Jesus, you save us; by your Spirit, you sustain us. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to you, our God for ever and ever. Amen!

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

SERMONIC SELECTION

The Chancel Choir

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor Greiner

SCRIPTURE READING

I Thessalonians 5:6-28

So then let us not fall asleep as others do but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with Christ.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and God will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

NORTHEASTERN'S C.A.T. SCAN RESULTS

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Deacon Penny Thomas and Elder Jennifer Allen

THE APOSTLES' CREED (Unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
& he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in Unison)

Our Father which 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

+ CLOSING HYMN - #443 "O Christ the Great Foundation"

WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

+ A CELTIC BENEDICTION

May the blessing of light be on us, light without and light within. May the blessed sunshine on us and warm each heart till it glows like a great fire, so that strangers and friends may come in and warm themselves. And may the light shine out from our eyes, like a candle set in the windows of a house. And may the Lord bless us and bless us kindly.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP

PRAYER ELDER THIS WEEK

Elder Nachee Miller

Lectionary: Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrew 5:5-10; John 2:20-33
Liturgist: Mr. Glen Grier
Greeter: Deacon Penny Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – The Northeastern Church Adult Sunday School Class convenes Sundays at 9:00 a.m. via conference call. The focus for Summer 2024 Lessons is "Hope in the Lord." You are cordially invited to join in on March 24th discussion "Living in Faith." Acts 6. Please dial **(267) 807-960 Passcode 828-160-800** to participate in the lively conversations with church members.

TODAY C.A.T. SURVEY RESULTS DISCUSSION, 5-6 pm on zoom

with the Rev. Tara Spuhler-McCabe, National Capital

Presbytery's Director of Congregational Development and Mission

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83161606623?pwd=rv8qMbcVhriO2SjpsxeMUnp4guWQgU.1>

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Saturday March 30, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. This is for children 2 yrs. to 5th grade. We are in need of wrapped candy, plastic eggs and volunteers!! All candy/egg donations need to be in church by March 24th. Please reach out to Jennifer Allen or Denise Hodges if you can donate and/or volunteer.

EASTER SUNDAY - bring a copy of your Homegoing service (worksheet available on our website), to dedicate it to Celebrate Resurrection.

EASTER LILLIES - Worship and Music Committee will be ordering Easter Lillies. If you are interested in purchasing a plant(s), Please see Elder Angela Hemphill, price is not available at this time. Forms are located in the Narthex.

LITERARY BOOK CLUB - Please join us for the following discussions. We meet at 1:30 pm via Zoom. To join us please contact Dr. Shirley Logan at 301-935-5173 for the Zoom link.

April 7th --The Girl with the Louding Voice, by Abi Dare

May 5th --Belonging: a Daughter's Search for Identity through Loss and Love, by Michelle Miller.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP

Thursday March 28, bring your favorite soup to share. Northeastern will supply drinks and bread. Gather in the auditorium for setup 5:45. Fellowship dinner from 6-7 pm. 7 pm worship in the sanctuary. **Worship theme: John 13 and Jesus' Farewell.**

PER CAPITA FOR 2024 is \$48.56.

PRAYING LIKE JESUS (THE PSALMS): BIBLE STUDY: This week we will be studying Psalm 34 (with music). Join us every Wednesday, 7 - 8 pm via zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89996811489?pwd=xksxVa0O8PayAL61GACkx1rXN6hOgf.1> Phone in: 301 715 8592
Meeting ID: 899 9681 1489 Passcode: 867481

REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT IN: The list printed in the bulletin will be updated each week to reflect additions and deletions. Reach out to our sick and shut in a safe way that lets them know they are in our hearts, minds, and prayers. Please contact the church office if you know names of persons who should be added to the sick-and-shut-in list or if you have updates on anyone listed.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday Morning Bible Study sessions will be via Zoom at 11:00AM Eastern Time. Please join us for an interesting discussion. The Zoom meeting information is in the E-mail to the congregation, or you can call the church office or Ruby Webb for the Zoom ID and Passcode.

ZOOM MEETING ID: The **ZOOM MEETING ID** for our worship services is: Meeting ID: **826 1188 5094**; Passcode: **728796**

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 169 persons were invited to participate; of these, 57 persons responded. A response from every member is not required to provide valid results. For a complete readout, please review the Vital Signs report that was sent to your church. A summary of that report is provided below.

Overall, approximately 30% of your members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information, indicates that members can imagine a church with a higher level of vitality than they are currently experiencing and are searching for a pathway that will lead them to a stronger church. Not every question is of equal importance to members. When asked how satisfied they are, members tend to focus on the issues addressed in the questions below. When they feel more positive in these areas, they tend to feel more positive overall.

- **A friendly atmosphere prevails among the members of our church.**
- **In important decisions in our church, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided.**
- **There is a disturbing amount of conflict in our congregation.**
- **The whole spirit in our congregation makes people want to get as involved as possible.**
- **The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.**

Conversely, when your members feel less positive about the areas above, they tend to feel less satisfied with their experience in the church overall.

Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weaknesses. Your church has potential strengths related to stability and clarity of belief. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to become tradition-bound and conflict-prone.

As members look to the future, their top four goals are

- **Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.**
- **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.**
- **Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.**
- **Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.**

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for your church are

- **Enlarge or improve the physical facilities of the church to expand or enhance our ministries.**

- **Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. (i.e.**

homeless, immigrant, transient persons)

- **Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.**

These may warrant attention from the leadership even if they are mid-level priorities.

All the information in this report should be explored and validated in further conversation. **Survey data is not the end of a conversation but the beginning.** Holy Cow! Consulting



The poster features a large white Easter egg with the letters 'NEPC' on it, surrounded by grass, small flowers, and two smaller decorated eggs. To the right, the text reads '2024 EASTER EGG HUNT' in a large, bold, dotted font. Below this, a black box contains the text 'Saturday . March 30 | 1-3 PM'. In the top right corner, it says 'NORTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'. At the bottom, the address '2112 Varnum Street, NE Washington, DC 20018' and phone number '(202) 526-1730' are listed, along with a small logo of a church building.



REMEMBER OUR SICK & SHUT-IN

OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS ARE WITH NORTHEASTERN MEMBERS & FAMILY:



"Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me, and I will be saved, for You are my praise." ([Jeremiah 17:14](#))

NORTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

As we rely on God's guidance, the vision of Northeastern Presbyterian Church is to fulfill the command of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to promote Christian faith and practice through evangelism, outreach, compassion and fellowship to our congregation and the wider community.

We commit to:

- **Worship**
- **Witness**
- **Learn**
- **Grow**
- **Nurture**
- **Serve**



STAFF

Ministers
Pastor (Stated Supply)
Director, Chancel Choir/Organist
Director, Pianist, Celestial Choir
Director, Pianist, Youth/Cherub Choir
Administrative Assistant
Sexton

All the people of the church
Pastor Mark Greiner
Dr. Laddie Bell

Ms. Jennifer Allen
Kathy Cuff
Randall Timbers

Ministries of Session

Budget & Finance
Buildings & Grounds

Christian Education
Clerk of Session
Evangelism and Outreach
Interpretation & Stewardship
Personnel
Social Concerns & Peace-Making

Technology Committee
Nominating
Worship & Music

Elders

Clara Berryhill
Denise Hodges
Co-chair: Elder Pamela Gessesse
Jennifer Allen
Valerie McCray
Shawn Thomas
Cherie Becton
Angela Hemphill
Jennifer Allen
Co-chair: Cherie Becton
Shawn Thomas
Clara Berryhill
Angela Hemphill

DEACONS

Valencia Hawkins
Katrin Jones, Moderator
Brenda Kuznof
Bishetta Merritt, Vice Moderator
Blossom Roach
Amanda Sargent
Penny Thomas

TRUSTEES

Loretta Bowers
Nachee Miller
Theodore Powell
James Williams
Patricia Young
William Hymes, Jr.
Ernest Harris, President

SENIOR USHERS

1st , 4th Shirley Wilson – President, Wilhelmina Davis, Brenda, Kuznof, Mary Allen,
Ruby Webb
2nd , 3rd , 5th Glynis Pegram-Higgs, Pam Gessesse, Jordan Gessesse