



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

First Sunday In Lent

March 9, 2025 10:00 a.m.

**Northeastern Presbyterian Church
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Direct office-202-526-1814

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

**THE CROSS IN THE SANCTUARY MARKS THE 40 DAYS OF LENT
AS WE PREPARE FOR EASTER**

+ INTROIT

The Chancel Choir

+ INVOCATION

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

ALL Amen Jesus!

ONE Jesus said: "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest
for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

ALL 'Lord, to whom can we go?

Jesus, You have the words of eternal life.'

ONE Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow me."

ALL Amen Jesus!

+ OPENING HYMN

**"Abraham Journeyed to a New Country"
(to the Tune of "Morning Has Broken")**

Abraham journeyed to a new country;
Sarah went with him, journeying too.
Slaves down in Egypt fled Pharaoh's army;
Ruth left the home and people she knew.

Mary and Joseph feared Herod's order;
Soldiers were coming! They had to flee.
Taking young Jesus, they crossed the border;
So was our Lord a young refugee.

Some heard the promise — God's hand would bless them!
Some fled from hunger, famine and pain.
Some left a place where others oppressed them;
All trusted God and started again.

Did they know hardship? Did they know danger?
Who shared a home or gave them some bread?
Who reached a hand to welcome the stranger?
Who saw their fear and gave hope instead?

God, our own families came here from far lands;
We have been strangers, "aliens" too.
May we reach out and offer a welcome
As we have all been welcomed by you.

Biblical References: Genesis 12; Ruth 1; Matthew 2:13-16, 10:40, 25:31-46; Hebrews 11, 13:2; Leviticus 19:18, 33-34

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PRAYER OF DISCIPLESHIP (by Coretta Scott King)

ONE Eternal and everlasting God, who art the Father of all mankind, as we turn aside from the hurly-burly of everyday living, may our hearts and souls, yea our very spirits, be lifted upward to Thee, for it is from Thee that all blessing cometh.

ALL **Keep us ever mindful of our dependence upon Thee, for without Thee our efforts are but naught.**

ONE We pray for Thy divine guidance as we travel the highways of life. We pray for more courage. We pray for more faith and above all we pray for more love. {....*silent prayer*...}

ALL **May we somehow come to understand the true meaning of Thy love as revealed to us in the life, death and resurrection of Thy son and our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. May the Cross ever remind us of Thy great love, for greater love no man hath given. This is our supreme example, O God. May we be constrained to follow in the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray.**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Romans 8:38-39)

One Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Thanks be to God, Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

William Hymes

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST

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!**

ANTHEM SELECTION

The Chancel Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN

THE OFFERING

Use your bank's online bill-paying options

Mail your check to the church

or

Go to nepc-dc.org, click on Navigate, 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)

Holy God, thank you. Thank you for your compassion, poured through Jesus Christ into the whole world. Thank you for your mercy to us. You sympathize with our weaknesses, for Jesus has been tempted in every way, just as we are. In the Spirit, you cleanse us and empower us to be your compassion in the world. Throughout Lent, draw us close to you. Through these our lives and these gifts, manifest your mercy, Amen.

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from Jesus until an opportune time.

SERMONIC SELECTION

The Chancel Choir

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor Greiner

THE HEBREW BIBLE READING

Nehemiah 9:6, 9, 11, 15-21

And Ezra said: 'You are the Lord, you alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. To all of them you give life, and the host of heaven worships you.

'And you saw the distress of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea. And you divided the sea before them, so that they passed through the sea on dry land, but you threw their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters. For their hunger you gave them bread from heaven, and for their thirst you brought water for them out of the rock, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you swore to give them.

'But they and our ancestors acted presumptuously and stiffened their necks and did not obey your commandments; they refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them; but they stiffened their necks and determined to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and you did not forsake them. Even when they had cast an image of a calf for themselves and said, "This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt", and had committed great blasphemies, you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness; the pillar of cloud that led them in the way did not leave them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night that gave them light on the way by which they should go. You gave your good spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and gave them water for their thirst. For forty years you

sustained them in the wilderness so that they lacked nothing; their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Pastor Mark Greiner

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in Unison)

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

SEEKING A CHURCH HOME?

+ CLOSING HYMN #146 (SOZ)

"Woke Up Dis Mornin'"

WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

+ BENEDICTION "DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?"

by Jorge Mario Bergoglio

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be Compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words; be silent and listen.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER ELDER

Elde Cynthia Gervais

<p>Lectionary: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Roman 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13</p> <p>Liturgist: Deacon Glen Grier</p> <p>Greeter: Deacon Bishetta Merritt</p>

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 Spring 2025 Lessons is “Costly Sacrifices.” You are cordially invited to join in on March 16th discussion “The Ordination of Priests,” Exodus 29:1-37; Leviticus 8:1-36. Please dial **(267) 807-9601 Passcode 828-160-800** to participate in the lively conversations with church members.

GET INVOLVED, PCUSA OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS.

Sign up here for alerts to faithfully raise our voices in key state and national actions <https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/PCUSA/home>

NORTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LITERARY CLUB **Book selections for 2025**

Literary Club - Please join us via Zoom at 1:30 pm for the following lively book discussions.

April 6th -- ***Grown Woman Talk: Your Guide to Getting and Staying Healthy***, By Sharon Malone, M.D.

May 4th ---***Madness: Race and Insanity in a Jim Crow Asylum***, by Antonia Hylton

June 1st --- ***Good Dirt: a Novel***, by Charmaine Wilkerson

PER CAPITA FOR 2025 is \$50.15.

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 the names of persons who should be added to the sick-and-shut-in list or if you have updates on anyone listed.

40 DAYS OF PRAYER WITH THE DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET Started on Ash Wednesday, March 5, everyone is encouraged to join in, we will share.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Please join us via Zoom at 11:00AM Eastern Time for Tuesday Morning Bible Study. Join us for in-depth and interesting discussions as we learn from the Bible. Call the church office for the Zoom meeting information.

STATED CLERK AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOINS OTHER NATIONAL FAITH LEADERS IN PUBLIC SUPPORT OF SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

The Rev. Jihyun Oh says PC(USA) recommits to compassion, accompaniment, safety and full dignity for migrant and immigrant siblings

Full statement here: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/stated-clerk-and-executive-director-joins-other-national-faith-leaders-public-support-sanctuary>

ZOOM MEETING ID: The **ZOOM MEETING ID** for our worship services is: Meeting ID: **857 3194 9016**; Passcode: **140816**

NORTHEASTERN'S "TOP FOUR GOALS"

results of the 2024 Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Survey

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



Calling Northeastern Players!
Seeking 4 Actors
for a short funny skit
On Palm Sunday, 4/13
during worship service
If interested, please contact Cynthia Gervais

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**



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](#))

**2025 LENTEN CALENDAR
NORTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Forty Days of Prayer

(Ash Wednesday to Easter, March 5 - April 20)

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

(church parking lot)

Begin 40 days of Prayer

"Service of Anointing and Healing – March 30

Sunday morning worship service

10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday - April 13

How about a brief 4-minute play?

4 actors, minimal props, likely just one run through.

In the play, two of the Lord's disciples are sent to fetch the donkey that will carry Jesus into the city. The problem is, the donkeys refuse to be untied - in this case, from their worries. Themes: Surrender, Worldliness, Faithfulness, God's Purposes, Worry, Trust, Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday - April 17

6pm - Soup Potluck in Auditorium

7pm - In person and online Holy Communion Service

Holy Saturday - April 19

Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Crafts (Time TBD)

Easter Sunday- April 20

10am - Worship and Flowering the Cross

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

Elder Gervais Invites You to Celebrate her One Year Kidney Transplant.

All are Welcome

Staff

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

All the people of the Church
Pastor Mark Greiner
Dr. Laddie Bell
Mr. Joshua Jenkins
Ms. Jennifer Allen
Ms. Kathy Cuff
Mr. Randall Timbers
Mr. Kyler Spencer

Ministries of Session

Budget & Fiscal
Buildings & Grounds
Christian Education
Interpretation & Stewardship
Personnel
Worship & Music
Technology Committee
Nominating
Clerk of Session
President of Corporation
Social Concerns & Outreach

Elders

Pamela Gessesse
James Haggins/Co-chair: Charles Barber
Jennifer Allen
Cherie Becton
Charles Barber/Co-chair: James Haggins
Angela Hemphill
Shawn Thomas
Angela Hemphill
Valerie McCray
Charles Barber
Shawn Thomas/ co-chair Patricia Young

DEACONS

Glen Grier
Valencia Hawkins
Katrin Jones, Moderator
Brenda Kuznof
Bishetta Merritt, Vice Moderator
Blossom Roach
Amanda Sargent
Penny Thomas
Randall Timbers
Charles Webb

SENIOR USHERS

1st, 4th Shirley Wilson – President, Wilhelmina Davis, Brenda, Kuznof, Mary Allen, Ruby Webb
3rd, 5th Glynis Higgs, Pamela Gessesse, and Jordan Gessesse, Stephanie White

JUNIOR USHERS

2nd, Pamela Gessesse, Jordan Gessesse, Ava Kennedy, Cecil Nixon, Chidera Uduma
Priya Young