



New York Avenue
Presbyterian Church

Lent I

February 18, 2024

10 am

LENT 2024

TRAVELING
THE WAY



A Word From Our Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

In his book, *A Geography of God*, pastor Michael Lindvall notes the wisdom of novelist John Gardner, who once generalized that there are only two story plots: *a stranger came to town*, and someone went on a journey. And Lindvall writes, “The Christian faith has both.”

Throughout the Hebrew Bible, we meet a cast of characters who serve as “strangers who have come to town” in the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, and, of course, Jesus. Jesus came as a stranger to town and called people from all walks of life, saying, “Follow me.” All these many years later, Jesus still comes to each of us as a stranger and invites us to follow him on a journey along spiritual pathways that lead to liberation and life.

The upcoming season of Lent offers us an opportunity to ponder the paths we are traveling. Using our Lent theme and sermon series, “Traveling with Jesus” we will ask questions like, Why go anywhere at all, spiritually speaking? What are we carrying that needs to be left behind? What soul-crafting practices do we need to pick up? Where is God when the path reaches a dead end, and things unravel? How are we being transformed by love, and what is keeping us stuck?

In the spirit of travel and journeys, we are going to use Lent as a season of intentional experimentation, trying on new forms of prayer–liturgy, song, and practice–each week in our worship life as we make our way with Jesus to the cross.

This Lenten season, I invite you to travel along and discover where God is leading us in community— and where God wants to take you.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson

You Belong Here.

From where you are now to where you are going,
From the beliefs you carry to the doubts you know,
From where you sleep to the place you call home,
From whom you love to how you identify,
You are seen, known, and loved by God
and all parts of you are celebrated here.

Things to Know During Worship

When **bulletins are waved** during worship, it is a sign of appreciation for music or other contributions. This tradition was first learned and celebrated from our partner church in Cuba, First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana.

If there is an **asterisk (*) printed** next to an item, we are inviting you to please rise in body and or spirit.

Restrooms

All-gender restrooms are located through the double red doors next to the large golden eagle.

Children Information

Children are welcome, including all their excitement and noises. There is **dedicated children's space** in the back of the sanctuary with supplies and space for kids to wiggle. At each sanctuary entrance, there are brightly colored **worship kits** that children may borrow and use through worship at their seats. During worship, there is a **children's moment** when children are invited forward. Afterwards, children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to go to **Worship Play**, returning after the sermon. Our **nursery** is available through worship on the 3rd floor for families with kids up to 4 years old.

Accessibility

An **accessible entrance** is located on the ground floor on the New York Ave side of the building, which also provides access to an **elevator** serving all floors.

Assisted Listening Devices are provided at the rear of the sanctuary. This system includes a compact wireless receiver and headphones. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a t-coil, you can connect it to the receiver using an adapter. If you need any help with this, please don't hesitate to ask one of our ushers.

Language for God

At NYAPC, we strive to use **inclusive and expansive language for God**. While many traditional prayers and hymns use gender-specific language for God, we seek to embrace the many reflections of our Creator found through scripture. In doing so, we embody what it means to be the body of Christ.

Lent Resources

Traveling the Way

The season of Lent offers us an opportunity to ponder the paths we are traveling.

Why go anywhere at all, spiritually speaking?

What are we carrying that needs to be left behind?

What soul-crafting practices do we need to pick up?

Where is God when the path reaches a dead end and things unravel?

How are we being transformed by love, and what is keeping us stuck?

Our lives of faith are an ongoing journey. God consistently calls us to turn and open our hearts to walking more fully in the Way of Jesus, guiding us along the road that leads to liberation and meaning, hope, and purpose. This Lenten season, we invite you to join us on the journey and discover where God is leading us together— and where God wants to take you.

Reflection Prompt:

Are you the very speedy type? A little sluggish? Or are you dragged down by life?

What does “following God” mean to you in this season of spiritual travel?

Daily Devotional:

As we are Traveling the Way this Lenten season, join us for reflection daily using our Lent Devotional.

Available online at nyapc.org/lent or at our Welcome Table for those who prefer a tangible copy, these devotions offer a meaningful way to reflect, pray, and grow closer in your faith journey. Whether you're at home or on the go, let these daily reflections guide your path towards Easter.

Listen:

As we step into the season of Lent, we have curated a playlist for you to listen to on your journey. It includes a variety of musical styles and invites us to listen deeply for God's Original Blessing and our intrinsic belovedness rather than miring us in the shame-filled murkiness of Original Sin.

We hope you enjoy it! **Scan the QR** to access the Spotify playlist or go to nyapc.org/info.



Our Mission

NYAPC is an **inclusive community of faith**, engaging in God's transforming work, challenging the powerful, standing with the oppressed, lifting up the broken-hearted, and making God's love and justice visible by welcoming and loving all.

Need Care?

We are committed to providing caring support and pastoral services to our congregation and the wider community. We understand that life can present challenges and we are here to offer assistance, prayer, and guidance during those times. Learn more by **scanning the QR code** or visiting nyapc.org/care.

Upcoming Events

Learn more about upcoming events by **scanning the QR code** or visiting nyapc.org/events.

Holy People, Holy Land: Rev. Dr. Suzanne Henderson | This Sunday at 11:30am

Lenten Reflections: Sunday Group | Every Sunday throughout Lent at 9am

Young Adult Gathering | 2/25 at 11:30am

Annual Congregational Meeting | 3/3 at 11:30am

Church Retreat Registration | Due 3/17

Young Adult Gathering | 3/17 at 11:30am

Palm Sunday & One Great Hour of Sharing Offering | 3/24 at 10am

Maundy Thursday Worship | 3/28 at 7pm

Good Friday Worship | 3/29 at 12pm

Easter Sunrise Worship | 3/31 at 7:15am

Easter Worship | 3/31 at 10am

Get Involved

To subscribe to our **weekly email**, learn about **volunteer opportunities**, send in **prayer requests**, and more, simply **scan the QR code below** or visit nyapc.org/info.

Giving

To our guests: We want you to feel comfortable and under **no obligation to contribute financially** during our offering. Your presence is a gift, and we are glad to have you join us in worship! If you feel moved to participate in our giving, know that your contributions empower our ministry, outreach programs, and ensure we can continue to serve our community and uphold our mission.

You can give by **scanning the QR code** or visiting nyapc.org/give.



The flowers in the sanctuary are dedicated to the glory of God in appreciation for the volunteers on the Nurture Committee who provide us with many opportunities for fellowship within the congregation.

Prelude

Minuet and Dance of the Blessed Spirits from "Orpheus"
Christoph Willibald Gluck

Words of Welcome

***The Lincoln Chimes**

**Please rise in body and or spirit*

Our tradition is to stand when the Westminster chimes play at the beginning of each service. The bells in the church tower were given by the Robert Lincoln family in memory of President Lincoln, who regularly worshiped here.

***Call to Worship**

**All: We have come to seek the living God,
who loves us,**

One: We have started down a road
that will take us to the cross.

All: It is a journey we take together,

One: and a journey each makes alone.

**All: We are invited to notice things on the way –
the sharp stones, the uneven ground, the mercy of shade,
the faithfulness of those who walk with us.**

One: We carry little with us
but that which is in our hearts:

All: Hope, trust, fear, apprehension, gratitude, weariness, wonder, sorrow, and joy.

One: On this walk, we rest, sing, pray, and listen.

All: In our worship, we rest, sing, pray, and listen.

One: Then, let us begin the journey.

All: Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1. Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

2. Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

3. Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession

Please sing your responses.

One: God, go and we will follow.
Because, truly, we cannot lead.
We cannot drag ourselves forward,
chin up and eyes on the horizon,
when all we see is mud
caking around our feet.

All: I want Jesus to walk with me;

One: God, go and grace will follow.
We've seen it all before.
How in the smallest moments,
the tiniest efforts,
multiply in your wake.

All: I want Jesus to walk with me;

One: We've seen the sun rise
over an empty tomb
and life spring up from nothing but dust,

All: all along my pilgrim journey,

One: So, all things considered,
help us to believe
that you can do a lot with this day,
our life, and our weary limbs,
and help us to learn to follow
the God who goes first.

All: Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

One: Let us go out into the world as people made new by the Way of Jesus.

All: Amen.

***Response of Praise**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
African-American Spiritual

I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

***Passing of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Please share signs of Christ's peace with your neighbor.

Time with Children

Children of all ages are invited to come forward.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Mark 6:6b-13

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Traveling the Way"
Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson, Senior Pastor

***Sermon Response**

Send Me, Jesus (Thuma mina)
South African

#746

One: Send me, Lord.

All: Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Lord.

One: Lead me, Lord

All: Lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus; lead me, Lord.

One: Fill me, Lord.

All: Fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus; fill me, Lord.

One: Thuma mina.

All: Thuma mina, thuma mina. Thuma mina, Somandla.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin to give online.

Offertory

Lead Me, Lord
Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord. Lead me in Thy righteousness.
Make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only
that makest me dwell in safety.

Lead me, Lord. Lead me in true holiness.
Teach me to love and trust in Thee.
Thou art our God, the God of our salvation,
All nations shall praise Thy holy name.

***Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

#607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Commissioning Cuba Partners Team

New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Beth Braxton, NYAPC Parish Associate
Seth Dickson
Brendan Doyle
Wilson Golden
Gina Kim
Anne Laroche
Katherine Leiden
Betsy Merritt
Sam Obermyer
Marilyn Seiber

Church of the Pilgrims Presbyterian Church

Diana Bruce
Rev. Erin Counihan, Pastor Church of the Pilgrims
Mitch Fulton
Carolyn Hull
Quinlan Stafford
Jean Stewart

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Hunt Howell

Sending HymnToday We All Are Called to Be Disciples (vs.1,3,4)*

#757

1. Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,
make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.

3. Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.

4. May we in service to our God
act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.

Benediction*All: Alleluia! Amen!****Postlude**

Sicilienne from Pelléas et Mélisande, Op. 78
Gabriel Fauré

Worship Team

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson

Associate Pastor: Rev. Rachel Pacheco

Liturgist: Len Shabman

Music: NYAPC Sanctuary Choir, Mary Anderson, Paul Vasile

Tech: Joe Thierry, Andrew Reich, Jorn White

This Sunday

8:15 am: Radcliffe Room breakfast

9 am: Lenten Reflections: Weekly Group (in the Lincoln Parlor)

9:15 am: Prayer group

10 am: Worship

11:30 am: Coffee Fellowship (in the back of the Sanctuary)

11:30 am: Holy People, Holy Land with Rev. Dr. Suzanne Henderson (in the Docherty Center on the first floor)



Get Info!

Scan the QR code below



nyapc.org/info



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