



New York Avenue  
Presbyterian Church

**Lent II**  
February 25, 2024  
10 am

The background is a large, expressive painting of a diverse crowd of people. The figures are rendered in a variety of bright colors including yellow, green, red, orange, purple, and blue. The style is somewhat abstract and textured, with visible brushstrokes. The overall composition is dense and energetic.

**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:

Is there someone recently whom love has helped you to make room for?

### 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](https://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](https://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](https://nyapc.org/care).

## Upcoming Events

Learn more about upcoming events by **scanning the QR code** or visiting [nyapc.org/events](https://nyapc.org/events).

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

**Young Adult Gathering** | This Sunday 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](https://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](https://nyapc.org/give).



The flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God by the Dewhurst family in loving memory of Miriam's mother, Mary Mitchell.

## **Prelude**

Andante from "Trio sonata" in E minor  
BWV 528; J.S. Bach

## **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**

One: God has set this day before us,

**All: A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.**

One: God has set our lives before us,

**All: A span of years in which we live, learn, serve, and walk in the Way of Jesus.**

One: God has set God's seal upon our hearts,

**All: So that we might travel life fully in deep love.**

One: Let us worship God!

### **\*Opening Hymn**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#39

1. \*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:** Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *(Refrain)*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(Refrain)*

\*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

## Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession

Adapted from "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day: Blessings for the Ups, Downs, and In Between" by Kate Bowler

**All: Lord, the shadowed world is full of troubles.  
So give us the good, inconvenient work of love.**

**Link our life to others  
so that their worries  
become our own.  
Give us errands we don't want  
which ease the burden of others.  
Divert us from the plans we've made  
to zip from A to B  
when you have better ideas.  
Put our hands to work  
with a less grumbling heart  
and let their dreams drift into our own.**

**You've given us tools to use  
and ideas to fashion  
that will bring us neither recognition, nor money, nor praise.**

**You've made love such a sneaky thing.  
The more we love as you do, the less we are keeping track of it at all. Amen.**

## Assurance of God's Grace

One: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve in Christ's name.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

## \*Response of Praise

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*  
African-American Spiritual

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the African-American spiritual "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me". The music is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words connected by lines to indicate phrasing or breath marks. The lyrics are: "I want Je - sus to walk with me; I want Je - sus to walk with me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney, Lord, I want Je - sus 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.*

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **First Scripture Lesson**

James 1:22-27

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Time with Children**

*Children of all ages are invited to come forward.*

### **Second Scripture Lesson**

Mark 7:1-3,5-8,14-16

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

### **\*Hymn**

*For Everyone Born (vs.1,3,5)*

#769

1. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead,

**Refrain:** and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!

3. For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong, *(Refrain)*

5. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free, *(Refrain)*



## **Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

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

### **Offertory**

*Come and Taste*

Southern Folk Hymn, arr. Alice Parker

Come and taste, along with me,  
Consolation running free,  
From our Father's wealthy throne,  
Sweeter than the honeycomb.

**Refrain:** I'll praise God and you praise God,  
And we'll all praise God together;  
We'll praise the Lord for the work that He has done,  
And we'll bless His Name forever.

All that come with free good will  
Make the banquet sweeter still;  
Now I go to mercy's door,  
Asking for a little more. *(Refrain)*

Goodness, running like a stream  
Through the new Jerusalem,  
By a constant breaking forth,  
Sweetens earth and heaven both. *(Refrain)*

O, return, ye sons of grace,  
Turn and see God's smiling face,  
Hark! He calls backsliders home,  
Then from Him no longer roam. *(Refrain)*

### **\*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**

#### **Prayers of the People**

*You are invited to share your prayers of joy and concern by coming to the mic on the H street side or raising your hand. The sharing time will conclude with a pastoral prayer and the Lord's Prayer. As we listen to one another, we know and trust that God listens, too.*

One: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

. . . God, our Parent and our Friend, our Mother and . . .

**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.**

## **\*Sending Hymn**

*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

#747

The Lord now sends us forth  
with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth  
a better place to live. (2x)

The angels are not sent  
into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant  
to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me  
and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray,  
to do your will today.

## **\*Benediction**

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

## **Postlude**

*Trumpet Tune in D*

David N. Johnson

## **Worship Team**

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Rachel Pacheco

**Liturgist:** Meg Neill

**Music:** NYAPC Sanctuary Choir, Paul Vasile

**Tech:** Joe Thierry, Jorn White, D'Mitre Powell

## **This Sunday**

**8:15 am:** Radcliffe Room breakfast

**9 am:** Lenten Reflections: Weekly Group (in the Lincoln Parlor on the first floor)

**9:15 am:** Prayer group

**10 am:** Worship

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

**11:30 am:** Young Adult Gathering (in the Lincoln Parlor on the first floor)



## Get Info!

Scan the QR code below



[nyapc.org/info](https://nyapc.org/info)



**New York Avenue**  
Presbyterian Church

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