New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday March 24, 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 Garder, 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,

Bor. Sad Jouron

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:

There is something incredibly embarrassing about yelling adoration. Have you done it? It is honest in a way that is difficult. We risk something in our hope. Think of a time you saw God popping up in any part of your life, big or small, and try a little "Hosanna." Super quietly is fine. When we double down on genuine gratitude, we become a little braver. (And a little more awkward. Three cheers for awkward!)

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 playist or go to **nyapc.org/info**.



Holy Week Events

Maundy Thursday | March 28 at 7 pm (onsite or online)

Good Friday | March 29 at 12 pm (onsite or online)

Easter Sunrise | March 31 at 7:15 am (onsite at Triangle Park in front of the Church)

Easter Worship | March 31 at 10 am (onsite or online)

Easter Egg Hunt | March 31 at 11:30 am (Peter Marshall Hall on the fifth floor)

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**.

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 the 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 via cash or check at the offering, scan the QR code, or visit nyapc.org/give.



The flowers are given today by Nancy Kissner (Mrs. G. Gordon) and John and Cathy Kissner Schultheis, to the glory of God and in loving memory of four generations of the Jacobs, Stewart, Smith, Kissner, Schultheis, Grier, Judkins, and Frey families who have worshiped at The NYAPC and its Bethany Chapel for 125 years.

*Prelude: The Crowd Gathers

Join us in the back of the Sanctuary as we warm up our voices and prepare for the Processional. All ages are welcome!

*Call to Worship: Proclamation of the Entrance into Jerusalem

Mantos y Palmas/Filled with Excitement Rubén Ruíz Avila

¡Hosanna! ¡Hosanna al rey! Hosanna! Hosanna to the king!

Words of Welcome

*Opening	Song
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Mantos y Palmas/Filled with Excitement Rubén Ruíz Avila

Choirs:

1. Filled with excitement, all the happy throng spread cloaks and branches on the city streets. There in the distance they begin to see, riding on a donkey comes the Son of God.

From every corner a thousand voices sing praises to him who comes in the name of God. With one great shout of acclamation loud triumphant song breaks forth!

All/Todos: ¡Hosanna! ¡Hosanna al rey! Hosanna! Hosanna to the king!

Choirs:

2. As in that entrance to Jerusalem, we sing hosannas to the Christ, our King, to the living Savior who still calls today, asking us to follow him with love and faith.

From every corner a thousand voices sing praises to him who comes in the name of God. With one great shout of acclamation loud triumphant song breaks forth!

All/Todos: ¡Hosanna! ¡Hosanna al rey! Hosanna! Hosanna to the king!

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession

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

One: Jesus, from that mountain
high among the olive trees
it would have been an easy walk
down to the city,
to Jerusalem, which lay below.
So why choose to make your way
on a donkey,
on an everyday beast of burden,
your feet almost dragging on the ground?
And who are these people running,
bending low,
to spread their precious cloaks
on the road before you,
waving palm branches and shouting

One: What is the raw and urgent hope that rises in their songs?

All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: And, Jesus, why are you smiling?

All: Because it is true what they are saying,

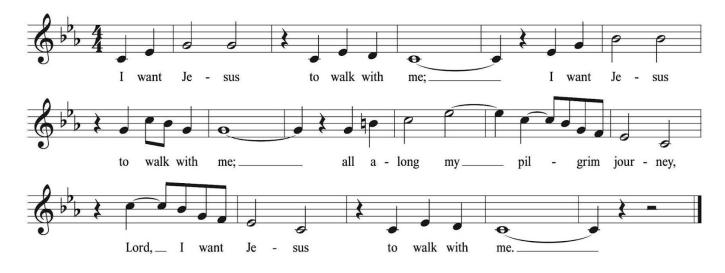
- One: though they can't know the whole of it. It is happening. It is unfolding in slow motion, the fulfillment of that promise from old: their savior would come, humble, riding on a donkey.
 - All: Blessed are we, on this side of history shouting, "Come Lord, save us too!" We know how it ends and still we forgot to rush toward our humble forgettable king and yell, "Hosanna, hosanna, our hope is in you!" Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

- One: Friends, by the grace of God, we are set free from sin and invited to live as loving, hopeful, gracious people of God.
- All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

*Response of Praise

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me African-American Spiritual



*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

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Traveling the Way: Jerusalem" Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson, Senior Pastor Mark 1:1-11

*Hymn

 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
 You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 You, peace-maker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave.
 You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.

2. Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross, shining in eternal glory, beggared by a soldier's toss, you, the everlasting instant; you who are both gift and cost.

3. You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.

4. Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ! Worthy your defeat and victory; worthy still your peace and strife. You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our death and life.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

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

Offertory

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Gilbert M. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*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.

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Please sing your response.

All: Lord, in your mercy, 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 Song

y soul,

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the *heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, to bear the *heavy cross for my soul!

2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on 'WONDROUS LOVE' Paul Vasile

Worship Team

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Johnson Associate Pastor: Rev. Rachel Pacheco Liturgist: Meg House Music: NYAPC Sanctuary Choir, Children and Youth Choir, Benno Lauer, 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 Docherty Center 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



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