

# North Presbyterian Church

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

10:15 a.m.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

### Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

#### Prelude

*Un Poco Adagio*

Hullmandel

#### Call to Worship

Jesus says, "I am the Way for you."

**And so we come to follow Christ.**

Jesus says, "I am the Truth for you."

**And so we come to dwell in the light.**

Jesus says, "I am the Life for you."

**And so we come, leaving behind all else to which we cling.**

#### Song for Preparation

*Bless the Lord*

Hymn 544

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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#### Prayer of Invocation

##### \*Hymn 692

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

*(Please pass "Joys and Concerns" to center aisle to be collected during the singing of the hymn.)*

##### \*Call to Confession

##### \*Prayer of Confession

**Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Yet we confess that our hearts have been enslaved by selfish passion and base desire. We have sought after many things and have neglected the one thing needful. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; help us to turn to you and find forgiveness. Lead us home, that we may again find in you our life and joy and peace. Amen.**

##### \*Silent Confession *(A time for personal confession of sin)*

## Lord, Have Mercy upon Us

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (Bm7) (Em) (C) Cm7 Fm D<sup>b</sup>

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -

(C) (B) (Cmaj7) (Em) (Bm7) (Em) D<sup>b</sup> C D<sup>b</sup>maj7 Fm Cm7 Fm

on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
 MUSIC: J. Christopher Pardini, 2005  
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KYRIE ELEISON (Pardini)

### \*Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news!

**God loves us! God forgives us!**

### \*Response

*Gloria Patri et Filio*

by Jacques Berthier

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, Pa - tri et Fi - li - o,

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, Spi - ri - tu - i San - cto.

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### \*Passing of the Peace

*Having received Christ's peace, let us share it by turning to our neighbors and greeting them, saying "May the peace of Christ be with you!"*

### A Conversation with Kaylie Clinton

*(Children may go to Sunday school in the north basement following our conversation.)*

### Anthem

*Lenten Journey*

arr. Tucker

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Handbell Choir

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

John 11:1-45

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Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

"Resurrection Reflection"

## WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

### \*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a bright and amazing God, who has been to the depths of despair on our behalf; who has risen in splendor and majesty; who decorates the universe with sparkling water, clear white light, twinkling stars and bright colors, over and over again. We believe that Jesus is the light of the world; that God believes in us, and trusts us, even though we make the same mistakes over and over again. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as sisters and brothers, and to the Maker's business in the world. **God said: Let there be light! Amen.** (© The Iona Community from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall St., Glasgow G2 3DH, UK)

### \*Hymn 785

*In Deepest Night*

### Prayers of the People

#### Offertory

*Song Without Words*

Wolford

#### \*Doxology

Hymn 607

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

#### \*Prayers of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And we pray as Christ taught us to pray:

**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.**

### \*Hymn 250

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

## WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

### \*Charge

### \*Benediction

#### Postlude

*Scherzo*

Haydn

*\*Please stand as you are able*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are in memory of Nanjoo Kim.*

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY**

*Liturgist:* Olivia Ebsary

*Live Stream:* Lisa Marsherall

*Ushers:* Jim & Diane Sprague

# Hymns

## Hymn 692 Spirit, Open My Heart

*Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.*

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain.*

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. *Refrain.*

May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. *Refrain.*

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## Hymn 785 In Deepest Night

In deepest night, in darkest days, when harps are hung, no songs we raise, when silence must suffice as praise, yet sounding in us quietly there is the song of God.

When friend was lost, when love deceived, dear Jesus wept, God was bereaved; so with us in our grief God grieves, and round about us mournfully there are the tears of God.

When through the waters winds our path, around us pain, around us death, deep calls to deep, a saving breath, and found beside us faithfully there is the love of God.

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## Hymn 250 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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## Scripture Readings

### John 11:1-45

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come

and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.



# CALENDAR

## Sunday, March 22

- 9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
- 9:00 am Bible Study/S261
- 10:00 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel
- 10:15 am Worship/Sunday School
- 11:15 am Coffee Hour/WH
- 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal/CR
- 1:00 pm Officer Training/Lib

## Monday, March 23

- 9:00 am Circuit Class/WH
- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH

## Tuesday, March 24

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting/Ofc
- 10:45 am Pilates/Chapel
- 12:00 pm Dress A Girl
- 1:30 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Lent Soup & Study/WH

## Wednesday, March 25

- 9:00 am Circuit Class/WH
- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH
- 1:00 pm Wednesday Afternoon Book Group

## Thursday, March 26

- 9:00 am Zumba/WH
- 6:30 pm GS Troop #30018/Lib

## Friday, March 27

- 6:30 pm OneWorld Choir/Chapel/WH

## Saturday, March 28

- 1:00 pm NO KINGS Walk/Williamsville

## Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

- 9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
- 9:00 am Bible Study/S261
- 10:15 am Worship/Sunday School
- 11:15 am Coffee Hour/WH
- 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal/CR
- 1:30 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel

*CR—Choir Room*  
*CSS—Congregation Shir Shalom*  
*EGA—Embroidery Guild*  
*GS—Girl Scouts*  
*DR—Dickinson Room*  
*FJC—Family Justice Center*  
*FONP—Friends of Night People*  
*Kit—Kitchen*  
*LE3—Before and After School Program*  
*Lib—Library*  
*MG—Memorial Garden*  
*PL—Parking Lot*  
*Ofc—Church Office*  
*WH—Westminster Hall*

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
 Monday - Thursday  
 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

To see a complete list, go to <https://northchurchwilliamsville.org/weekly-bulletin-and-north-star/>

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **ADULT ED: 9 a.m. in the Library**

Come join in the discussions at the Adult Ed group that meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the library.

**March 1 through March 29** - Join the Adult Ed class for this year's Lenten series *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr.

**April 5 – Easter Sunday Adult Ed will not meet.**

*Join us in the Adult Education class and grow your faith among friends. Everyone is welcome.*

### **BIBLE STUDY: 9 am in Room S-261**

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in Room S261 for Bible study. **April 5 – Easter Sunday Bible Study will not meet.**

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY: 1:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Bible study with Pastor Bill is held every Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you are interested in joining, please call the church office or email [n.church.npc@gmail.com](mailto:n.church.npc@gmail.com).

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday school schedule for January-June 2026:

- 3/22/26
- 4/19/26, 4/26/26
- 5/10/26, 5/31/26
- 6/14/26

### **LENT SOUP AND STUDY**

Join us for Lenten soup and study suppers in Westminster Hall from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays during Lent. The meal will take place at 5:30 pm. Enjoy homemade soup, fresh bread, and dessert followed by study discussion at 6:15 pm. The topic is Faith Journeys.

- March 24 – Debbie Katz & Louise Cooper

Childcare will be available during the study time. Please contact the Church Office ahead of time to let us know your needs: [n.church.npc@gmail.com](mailto:n.church.npc@gmail.com) or 716-632-1330.

### **HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!**

For the month of **MARCH**, we are collecting **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.; regular or small sizes, please). Place your donations in the shopping cart parked in the narthex and remember that reusable bags are always appreciated. Thank you for your continued support! Many families are being helped with your generous donations!

### **BOOK GROUPS**

Everyone is invited to participate in a book group discussion. Groups meet in the Dickinson Room on the third and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The books up for discussion and the meeting times/dates when they resume meeting in the fall are:

- March 18, 10:00 a.m. – *Hiroshima* by John Hersey
- March 25, 1:00 pm - *The Sunday Philosophy Club* by Alexander McCall Smith

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

If you would like to be added to our mailing list or receive our weekly email newsletter, please contact the Church Office with your name, address, phone number, and email address: [n.church.npc@gmail.com](mailto:n.church.npc@gmail.com) or 716-632-1330.

## MINISTERS: THE CONGREGATION

*Pastor/Head of Staff:* The Rev. William T. Hennessy

*Administrative Assistant:* Reyne Jankowski

*Facilities Caretaker:* Mack Bigler

*Director of Music, Organist:* Marlene Harrington

*Bookkeeper:* Carol Lynn Saxer

*Childcare Supervisor:* Regina Koterias

*Coordinator of Sacred Arts:* Olivia Ebsary

*Director of Music, Children & Youth:* Alanna Carlins

*Musical Assistant:* Kurt Ebsary



### Our Church Officers

*Clerk of Session:* Mitch Roemer

*Treasurer:* Brad Hahn

*Assistant Treasurer:* Mary Beth Karr

#### Class of 2026

Joe Alber  
Lois Anneler  
Louise Cooper  
Warren Marcus

#### Class of 2027

Harvey Blakely  
Olivia Ebsary  
Debbie Katz  
Ryan Koterias

#### Class of 2028

Jim Atwood  
Randy Bigler  
Paul Hahn  
Diane Sprague

### Board of Deacons

*Moderator:* Jim Loree

#### Class of 2026

Sue Boldt  
Jim Loree  
Faye Wohlhueter  
Marty Shafer

#### Class of 2027

Marge Blakely  
Duncan Hemink  
Lynda Roemer  
Mary Atwood

#### Class of 2028

Fred Hacker  
Nancy Kim  
Patti Thayer  
Pam Ostermeier

## Session Committees

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Adult Education & Faith Formation	Debbie Katz
Advocacy and Outreach	Mary Lou George
Children's Christian Education	Debbie Hutton
Membership	Jim Atwood
Finance	Jim Atwood
Human Resources	Joe Alber
Property	Randy Bigler
Stewardship	Debbie Katz
Worship	Olivia Ebsary, Jeff Faunce, Sue D'Angelo

### MISSION STATEMENT

Brought together by our shared faith in Jesus Christ,  
Called by God to live as faithful disciples,  
Blessed by our diverse gifts and experiences,  
We commit ourselves to:  
Worship together,  
Teach and learn from one another,  
Nurture each other with care and love, and  
Reach out in ministry and mission to the world.  
*(Adopted by the Session June 5, 2006)*

### LET'S CONNECT

Website: <https://northchurchwilliamsville.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northchurchwilliamsville/>

Phone: 716-632-1330

Email: [n.church.npc@gmail.com](mailto:n.church.npc@gmail.com)

**Thursday e-blast and special announcements:**

*Please make sure the church office has your current email address if you wish to receive email.*

