

**NORTHRIDGE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 25, 2024

6920 BOB-O-LINK DRIVE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75214
NORTHRIDGEPC.ORG

Lent 2024: The Art of Forgiveness

We are in the season of Lent, the forty days before Easter and a time for us to journey inward in self-examination, prayer, meditation and works of love. Our sermon series for these six weeks is on "The Art of Forgiveness." We'll ask what forgiveness is, explore why it's so hard, and talk about apologies and what forgiveness can do. There are opportunities for discussion and learning for all ages this season, as well as Lent Take-Home Kits for children and their families. Mark your calendars for March 24th when Holy Week begins with a Palm Sunday processional, Easter egg hunt, and Youth Mission fundraiser!

The Year of *WITH*

This program year, we are focusing on what it means to be with God, with one another, with ourselves, and with creation. This theme grounds both our worship and our life beyond worship. During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to examine our relationships with God, others and ourselves through the lens of forgiveness.

You Are Not Anonymous Here!

God knows you by name and we want to, too. We encourage you to wear your nametag, found on the kiosk in the narthex, or fill out a temporary nametag at the welcome table by the courtyard doors. If you need a new nametag, please contact the church office at office@northridgepc.org.

Kids Belong in Worship Too

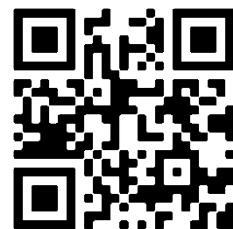
We believe that children are an integral part of our community and that they belong in worship. Each Sunday, we invite our tiny theologians to the front of the sanctuary for an age-appropriate message. Afterwards, they return to the pews to worship with their families or leave for stories and coloring in the nursery where parents can pick them up after worship. In the back of the sanctuary there is a Sensory Library. Please let your children pick a toy (or several!) to play with during worship if they'd like.

Worship Livestream

Our worship service extends beyond the walls of the sanctuary in the form of video recording and livestreaming. Your presence with us today signifies consent to the possibility that your image may be included as part of our media broadcast. You can revisit the livestream of this service on our YouTube channel by visiting www.youtube.com/NorthridgePresbyterian. You can also view or listen to archived sermons via YouTube or Spotify.

Join Us

At Northridge, we believe the church is a gift everyone deserves to enjoy; a community of people committed to doing life together—enduring heartaches, celebrating joys, seeking out laughter, and pursuing a more just world as we follow the path Jesus set out for us. If you think Northridge may be the community for you, please reach out to Rev. Betsy Swetenburg at betsys@northridgepc.org.



NORTHRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

✦ *an invitation to rise in body or spirit*

Chiming the Hour

Introit

Psalm 19

Bryan Page, *NPC Psalter*



The heart and mind of God are tuned to jus-tice, hon-or, love, re-spect, and peace.

Welcome

✦ Call to Worship

O God, have mercy on us, we pray.

In your mercy, make us clean from our sins.

Wipe away every failing and make us new in your sight.

Restore us, deliver us, and re-create us, O Lord.

✦ Gathering Hymn #445

God, How Can We Forgive

LEONI

Prayer of Confession

**God who pushes and pulls, coaxing and sending,
we confess to you that we often resist your movement,
wishing you would let us go our own way.**

If we're completely honest,

we give in to temptation more often than we resist.

**We confess that we have prepared to gorge ourselves
on things other than your word;**

we have longed for power over others;

we have bargained with your promise and begged for minor miracles.

silence for personal confession

Show us your way in the wilderness.

Guide us to your path and teach us to follow.

We pray in the name of Christ, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

✠ Passing the Peace
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

✠ Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Time with Tiny Theologians

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

John 8:1-11

N.T. p.#100

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Art of Forgiveness:
Why is Forgiveness So Hard?

Rev. Betsy Swetenburg

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠ Affirmation of Faith

adapted from *The Confession of 1967*

The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which we are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves. This enables the church to be a community in which we know that God loves and accepts us despite what we are. Therefore, we accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

✠ Affirmation Response

Glory to God, #178, v.4

**The burdens now that weigh us down, the sins we fear to speak,
the ache of heart and empty souls we lay before your feet.**

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.

Call to Give

Offerings of cash or checks may be left in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.
To make an offering via text, send a message to (844) 958-4345 with the amount of the gift.
If you pledge, your offering will be applied to your pledge.

Offertory

Let Justice Flow

Douglas Romanow
arr. Page

✠ Doxology

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

✠ Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠ Sending Hymn (insert)

Restore in Us, O God

TERRA BEATA

✠ Charge and Benediction

**Go out into God's world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good;
return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
help the suffering; honor all persons; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Closing Voluntary

Ich danke dir, Herr Gott, in deinem Throne

J. S. Bach

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Betsy Swetenburg, Pastor

Rev. Rebecca Chancellor Sicks, Parish Associate

Ray Chavez, Lay Reader

One & Done Choir

Bryan Page, Director of Music

Jacob Hord, Organist

FORGIVENESS

445 God, How Can We Forgive

1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,

How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?

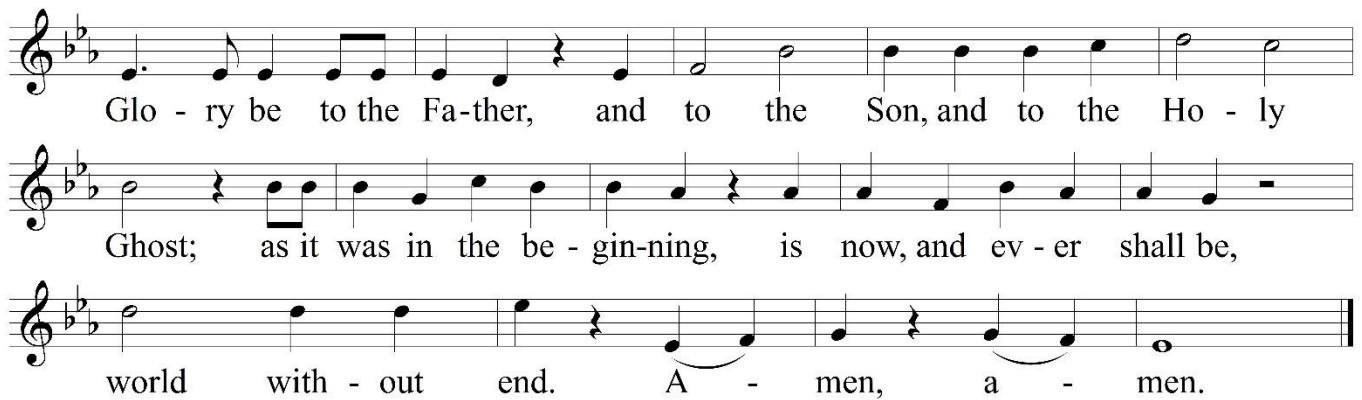
When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

This text reflects both the struggle to deal with a deep personal hurt and a keen awareness of biblical language and content. The opening line of stanza two, for example, draws on the root meaning of the Greek word for sin, and the beginning of stanza three alludes to John 8:3-8.

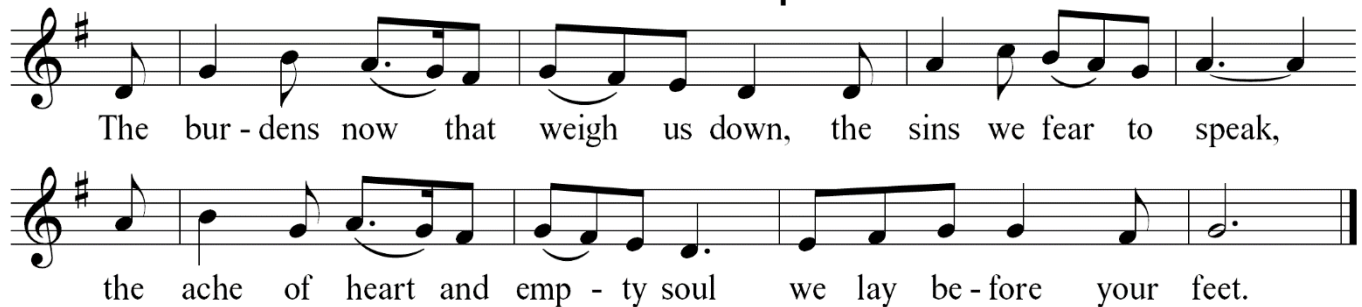
SERVICE MUSIC

♠ Gloria Patri



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

♠ Affirmation Response



The bur - dens now that weigh us down, the sins we fear to speak,
the ache of heart and emp - ty soul we lay be - fore your feet.

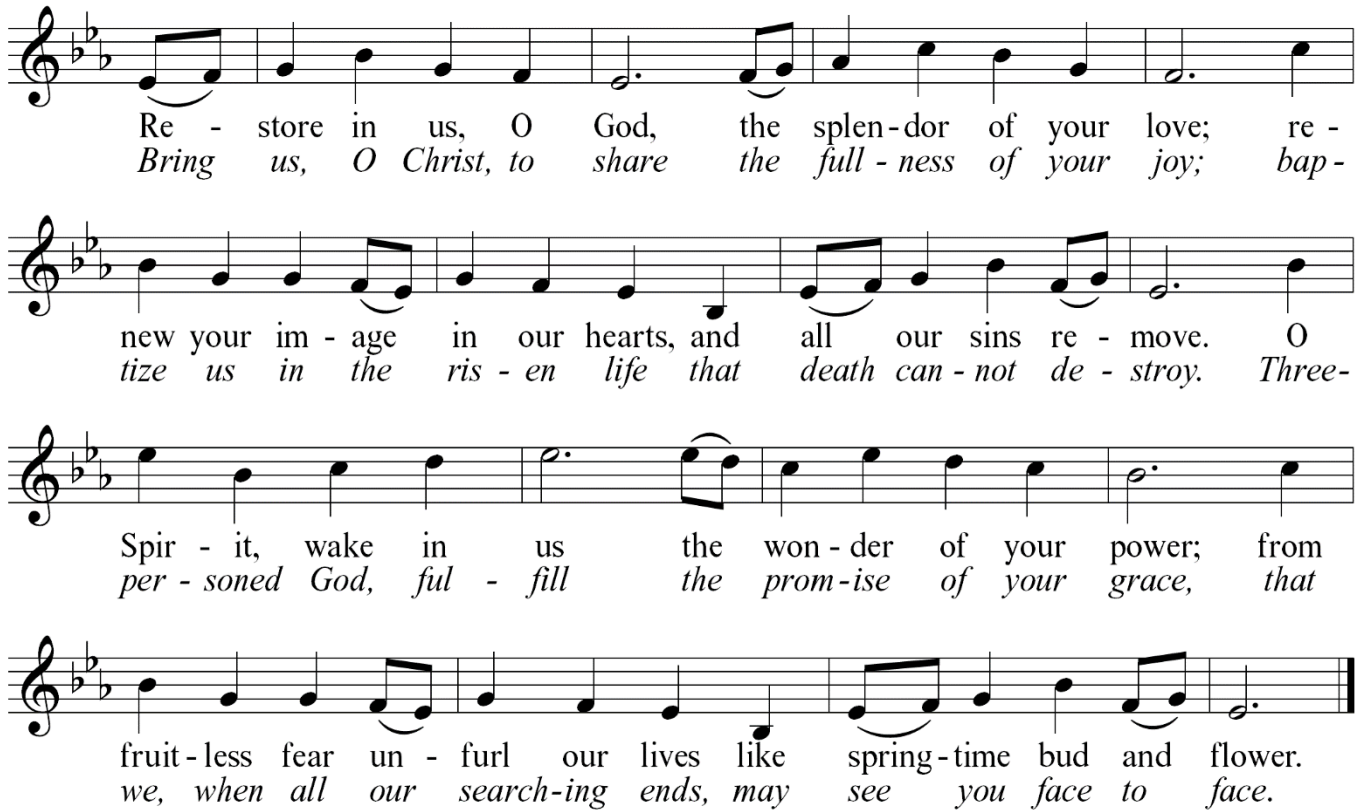
♠ Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all crea - tures
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; one
ho - ly God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

SENDING HYMN

✠ Restore in Us, O God TERRA BEATA



Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -

new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move. O
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy. Three -

Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your power; from
per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that

fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flower.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

(214) 827-5521

office@northridgepc.org

The Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Elizabeth Lyles Swetenburg
betsys@northridgepc.org

Dickson Pastoral Resident

Rev. Savannah Shivers Goodman
savannahs@northridgepc.org

Interim Director of Operations

Lynn Granello
lynng@northridgepc.org

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Heather Kolodziej
ncdcoffice@northridgepc.org

Parish Associate

Rev. Rebecca Chancellor Sicks
rebeccas@northridgepc.org

Director of Music

Bryan Page
bryanp@northridgepc.org

Organist

Jacob Hord
jacobh@northridgepc.org

Soundboard Operator

Rebecca Jones

The church office remains open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM.

Moderator

Rev. Betsy Swetenburg

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Roger Quillin

Class of 2023

*Cory Barnard—Worship
Brenna Buchanan—Faith
Formation
*Ray Chavez—Mission
Cindy George—Administration
*Laird Johnson—Property
*Kathy Watson—Engagement &
Connection

*committee chair

Linda Hale Buchanan
Kay Cox
John Karnowski
Anna Nicholson—Youth Deacon
Nancy Singer

Treasurer

Allan Tepera
treasurer@northridgepc.org

The Session Elders

Class of 2024

*Natalia Brownfield—Faith
Formation
Jeff Chauza—Mission
*Ken Slack—Administration
*Brandy Treadway—Human
Resources

Board of Deacons

Jill Vigil—Chair of Deacons

Clerk

Bill Swart

Class of 2025

Jack Munn—Property
Colleen Taylor—Engagement &
Connection
Pete Wahl—Worship
Sarah Nicholson—Chair of NCDC
Board

Cathie Bishop
Margaret Floyd
Carol Harris
Mark Nacol
Rob Raymond