



PRINCE OF PEACE

Love God. Love People.

March 7 – 8, 2026

Loneliness

Deuteronomy 31:7-8 | Matthew 28:19-20



MUSIC THIS WEEKEND

CONTEMPORARY SAT 5:30 pm | SUN 10:30 am

It Really Is Amazing Grace
Battle Belongs
You Say
You're Here

CLASSIC | SUN 9:00 am

GUEST CHOIR: VOCAL MUSIC |
MIDLAND UNIVERSITY | FREMONT, NEBRASKA

Blessed Assurance
Flutes: Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Guest Choir: Light of a Clear Blue Morning
Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee
Guest Choir: Still I Rise

MESSAGE: Jill Bergman

COMMUNION: all services

BAPTISM: Mila Zenk (Sunday, 9:00 am)

Did you enjoy the song "You're Here" by Russ Parrish during the service? Listen to it again on Spotify or pick up a CD at the Connect Desk!

We offer prayers and sympathy for the family and friends of **Orron Thomas**.

Upcoming Celebration of Life Services:

Bob Klungness – March 17
Ron Bergerson – March 28
Sandra Bergsten – April 24

Welcome to Prince of Peace!

We are an open and affirming community, here to love God and all people.



Connect with Prince of Peace!

Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.

Paper copies of this form are available at the Connect Desk.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Classic: Sun 9:00 am | Contemporary: Sat 5:30 pm, Sun 10:30 am

Resources, livestreams, playlists and podcast links: popmn.org

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Weekend Worship | March 28-29 | regular worship times

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal | April 2 | 6:00 pm

This contemporary Jewish meal uses traditional food and rituals to help us remember the Exodus story. popmn.org/register

Good Friday Worship | April 3 | 7:00 pm

Reflections on the Seven Last Words of Jesus.

Easter Saturday Worship | April 4 | Contemporary | 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday Worship | April 5

Sunrise | 6:30 am | Chapel | Communion

Classic | 8:00 & 9:30 am | Sanctuary | *also livestreamed*

Contemporary | 11:00 am | Sanctuary | *also livestreamed*

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

Lenten Soup Suppers | **Wednesdays** | **5:00 – 7:00 pm**

Gather in community for a simple meal. The meal is free, the table is open throughout the Lenten season, and we'd love to see you!

Pilgrimage Wanderings | **Tuesdays, March 10 & 24** | **6:30 pm**

Pastors Paul and Nancy Lee Gauche lead a two-part Bible study exploring the sacred journey of pilgrimage. popmn.org/register.

Family Ministry Flower Fundraiser | **Orders due March 22**

Order flowers in the community room, and pick them up on May 9.

Easter Plants | **\$15 per plant** | **Order by March 25**

Purchase a plant in memory, honor or thanksgiving of a loved one this Easter. Order online or stop by the Connect Desk or Welcome Desk to pick up an order envelope to use for cash or checks.

EGGstravaganza | **Sunday, March 28** | **10:00 am**

This event – featuring activities, pancakes and an Easter egg hunt – is free and open to the public: popmn.org/register. We're looking for small, nut-free candy to stuff in the plastic eggs. Want to donate or help? Contact Dawn at dridgway@popmn.org

Prince of Peace Board Member Applications | **Due March 31**

Want to serve on the board? Visit popmn.org/about/leadership.

JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Thank you for your gifts for mission and ministry!



WHAT IS YOUR GOLIATH?

DUNGEON or BATTLEFIELD

What is the battlefield or dungeon? What fearsome or mundane realities have kept you away? What guardians block the way or seal the doors?

SKILL or CHALLENGE

What potential allies or enemies appear? What can you find here that might help or hurt your progress, depending on your approach? Are there puzzles to solve?

SETBACK

Success is hardly ever a straight line. What pitfall might you have to navigate on your way to gaining what you seek?

CLIMACTIC CONFLICT

What climactic challenge – or Goliath – stands as the final guardian between you and what you ultimately seek?

REWARD

What lies on the other side of this battle? What is your reason for risking the danger of the fight? What will you gain? What surprise might be in store after your victory here is won?

The Goliath of LONELINESS

Sometimes being alone is exactly what we crave, like after a long, noisy, high-demand day (parents, I see you!). Sometimes, however, being alone doesn't feel so great and even in the midst of a crowd we might feel unseen and unloved. Being alone can be healthy or unhealthy, depending on the needs of the person and the situation. How did Jesus handle alone time?

When we read about Jesus' life, we read about two different types of alone time that he experienced.

One type of alone time was of Jesus' choosing. Sometimes Jesus would long for a break from his public ministry and he would purposely seek out time for prayer and rest. As Luke tells us, "But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds were gathering to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Meanwhile, he would slip away to deserted places and pray (5:15-16)." During times like these, Jesus found respite in his alone times and felt refreshed by them.

The other type of alone time was not of Jesus' choosing. At the end of his life, while he was hanging on the cross, he felt completely abandoned, even by God. Jesus didn't want to be alone at that moment, yet he couldn't sense even the presence of God. According to Matthew 27:46, "And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

While time alone could be beneficial in some cases, in 2023 the U.S. Surgeon General declared a "loneliness epidemic" a major public health crisis affecting around half of American adults. Dr. Julianne Holt Lunstad equated social disconnection to being as risky as smoking 15 cigarettes per day.

What can we do as a faith community to address this pain in our world?

First, we can recognize that each of us was made unique AND as the image of God. If we feel like we don't fit into this world, we are simply experiencing the friction caused by the world being powerless to control us. Second, we can dive into the truth that we were created to be in community. Our souls cry out for companionship and we can find that social connection in the Body of Christ. Even as we are all unique, we come together in Jesus' name to support one another and to care for each other. We see God in each other's faces, especially in a diversity of faces. Third, we attend to the calling of God to create community for others. It is our solemn responsibility to go out to all the nations and to invite the people into a relationship with Jesus and his followers. It's not our job to make everyone the same but it is our job to invite new people into community with us and to be welcoming towards them.

As Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

