



**Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge**  
**Lent II / AGM Sunday, March 1, 2026**  
**Worship at Home**

Email: [northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com](mailto:northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com) Website: <https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca>

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** We come to worship as people of faith.

**P:** **Even when our faith feels small, and life feels uncertain, we come to trust the seed God has planted in us.**

**L:** We come to worship as people of hope.

**P:** **Even when hope grows dim in the face of trouble and change, we believe God is still at work.**

**L:** We come to worship as people of love.

**P:** **Even when love feels strained by hurt or fear, we gather to be renewed by Jesus' compassionate love.**

**L:** Hear the promise of Scripture: "*The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*" (Philippians 1:6)

**P:** **Faithful God, continue your good work in us. Strengthen our faith, renew our hope, deepen our love, and lead us forward in trust.**

Hymn 330

**O God, our help in ages past**

**PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION and The Lord's Prayer**

Heavenly Creator,

you are the foundation of our lives and the source of our strength. You are the one who began a good work in us and in this church. We come before you with the seeds of faith you have planted in our hearts. We come seeking your wisdom, your mercy, and your guiding hand. Open us to new life and renewed hope in Christ.

Merciful God, we try to live with faith, hope, and love, but the world can make this hard. There are decisions around us that trouble us. There are divisions that weaken trust. There are personal struggles that test our faith. Forgive us when fear grows stronger than trust. Forgive us when frustration replaces love. Forgive us when we forget that you are still at work.

Hear us now in silence as we quietly confess what weighs on our hearts and ask for your forgiveness. (Silence)

In these uncertain times, help us to hear your voice. Strengthen the roots of faith, hope, and love within us. Give us the courage to persevere, the wisdom to know what to release, and the humility to trust that you are guiding our future.

Faithful God, continue your good work in us. Renew our hearts and lead us forward in hope. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who walks with us and teaches us to pray, saying:

### **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.

The Peace of Christ

Hymn 699                    **All the way my Saviour leads me**

### **Children of God's Moment**

#### **Prayer for Understanding**

Faithful God,

as we hear your Word, assure us that you are still at work in us. Help us trust that the good work you began, you will bring to completion. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

**Responsive Psalm 138**

**Philippians 1:6; 2:12–13; 4:4–13**

### **SERMON**

#### **God Is Still Working**

The word destiny is very popular in our world today. But what does it really mean? When people talk about destiny, they usually mean something like this: a path they chose, a decision they made, or a person they met that changed their life. To “find your destiny” means to discover what you were made for — your calling, your purpose.

But the word destiny can also make us uncomfortable. Is it your destiny to fail in a relationship? Is it your destiny to live with illness? Is it your destiny to struggle for years? Is it your destiny to grow old feeling forgotten? Is destiny something we make? Or is destiny something that happens to us?

Many people today say, “You create your own destiny.” Social media tells us, “Your future is in your hands.” But real life is not that simple. We did not choose our parents. We did not choose the country we were born in. We did not choose our body, our health, or many of the events that shaped us.

Some of us experienced deep loss. Some experienced trauma. Some faced limitations we never expected. So how much of our life is really in our control? And if so much is beyond us, where does God fit into all of this?

During Black History Month in Canada, we often remember Martin Luther King Jr. Did he choose his destiny? Or did his destiny choose him? He once said that when he felt afraid, when he wanted a quiet life, he could not walk away. The call of God held him. In his heart, he felt he had no choice but to say yes.

Jesus said something similar in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Not my will, but yours be done.” But most of us are not Jesus. We are not famous leaders. We are ordinary people living ordinary lives.

Yet even ordinary lives raise big questions. What is God doing in my life? What is God doing in our church? Does God still have a future for us?

To explore this, we turn to the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians. At first, Paul sounds like he is saying destiny depends on us. He says: “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” “Rejoice in the Lord always.” “Do not worry about anything.” “Think about what is true and honorable.”

“Keep doing what you have learned.” These are action words. They call for choice. They call for responsibility.

But then Paul says something else. “The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion.” “It is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work.” “I can do all things through the one who strengthens me.”

So which is it, Paul? Is it us? Or is it God?

Here is something important: Paul writes these words from prison. He is guarded by Roman soldiers. He is waiting for trial. His future looks uncertain. From the outside, it looks like his ministry is finished. Yet from prison, he writes about joy. He writes about confidence. He writes about God finishing what God started.

How can he say that? Maybe God’s power is not about removing difficulty. Maybe God’s power is about being present within it. Maybe destiny is not a straight, easy road. Maybe it is a journey where God walks with us — even when we cannot see clearly.

Think about a garden. A gardener plants seeds. The gardener waters and pulls weeds. But the gardener cannot force the seed to grow. Growth takes time. There are seasons of waiting. There are storms. There are cold days. But if the seed is alive, and if it is cared for, growth will come.

Paul is saying something like this: God planted a seed in you. God planted a seed in this church. And God does not abandon what God plants. You and I still water. We still pray. We still choose to trust. But the life inside the seed — that comes from God.

Now think about your own life. Many of you here today have lived long lives. You have seen joy and sorrow. You have raised children. You have buried loved ones. You have faced illness. You have seen the church change. You may sometimes wonder: Did I do enough? Did I make mistakes that changed everything? Is it too late for something new?

Paul would say: God is not finished. “The one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.” Not you alone. Not your strength alone. Not your success alone. God. Even when you feel tired. Even when your body slows down. Even when the future feels uncertain. God is still working.

Paul also says, “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” That does not mean we live in fear of punishment. It means we take our faith seriously. We do not sit back and say, “Whatever happens, happens.” We pray. We love. We serve. We forgive. We show up.

But as we do, we remember something beautiful: “It is God who is at work in you.” When you feel a small desire to pray, that is God at work. When you feel the courage to forgive, that is God at work. When you feel hope rising again after loss, that is God at work. Even your longing for peace is a sign that God is present.

Now let us think about our church family. We do not fully know what the future holds. Attendance numbers may rise or fall. Finances may feel tight. Leadership may change. We may feel small compared to the past. But numbers do not decide destiny. God does. If God has planted faith here and God has, then God is not finished.

As we gather for our Annual General Meeting today at Rockway and next Sunday at North Pelham, we will talk about budgets, reports, and plans. These are important. They show responsibility. They show care.

But underneath every report, there is a deeper truth: God is still working. Every prayer offered in this sanctuary. Every hymn sung, even with weaker voices. Every visit to someone who is lonely. Every dollar given in trust. These are seeds. And God is the one who gives growth.

So today and next Sunday, as we reflect on our past year, the joys and the losses, let us hold this promise close: “The one who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.” That promise is not only for young people starting their journey. It is for seniors finishing strong. It is for churches in transition. It is for anyone who feels uncertain.

Our destiny is not controlled by fear. It is not controlled by regret. It is not controlled by aging or weakness. Our destiny rests in the faithful hands of God. And that is a powerful faith to hold.

So as we move into our meeting today and next Sunday, let us do so with courage. Let us give thanks for what has been. Let us be honest about challenges. And let us trust that God is already ahead of us. God has called us into this journey together. God has planted faith here. God is still working.

May we continue to water the seeds. May we continue to rejoice, even imperfectly. May we continue to trust, even trembling. For it is God who is at work in us, enabling us to will and to work for God's good pleasure. And the one who began this good work among us will bring it to completion. Amen.

Special music

**Be thou my vision**

Joy Jounq

Hymn 457

**Now thank we all our God**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

#### **Doxology**

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

Faithful God,

you have begun a good work in us. Receive these gifts as seeds of trust and gratitude. Continue your work through us, and bring it to completion for your glory. Amen.

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and for the People**

Thank you, O God, for being with us — in ways we see and in ways we do not see. There have been times of challenge in our lives. This may be such a time now, or we may sense difficult days ahead. Give us fresh faith in your work within us. Remind us that you have begun a good work in us, and that you will continue that work through all our days. Help us trust that our lives are held in your eternal care. Thank you for the faith, assurance, and hope you have already stirred in us. When doubt grows strong, deepen our trust. When the road feels dark, let your light guide us.

We pray for this church family at Rockway and North Pelham. Even when the future of many churches feels uncertain, we thank you that your Spirit is still moving among us. Help us build community, care for one another, and share the compassionate love of Jesus in our community and beyond.

We thank you for those who came before us — for their faith and sacrifice, and for the foundation they laid. We thank those who are new among us for bringing fresh energy and renewed hope. Continue shaping us as the body of Christ.

We pray for our world, where violence, conflict, and loss wound so many lives. We remember Tumbler Ridge, BC; Iran, Cuba, Gaza, Sudan, Cameroon, Ukraine, and other places of suffering. Bring comfort to the grieving, protection to the vulnerable, and justice where there is oppression.

We pray for those among us who face illness, mental health struggles, chronic pain, caregiver exhaustion, and loss of independence. Surround them with your peace. Remind them that their lives are precious and that their future rests safely in your hands.

On this second Sunday of Lent, we pause in silence to name before you those we carry deeply in our hearts, asking for faith, hope, and healing. (Silence)

O God, we pray for healing. We pray for sustaining love. We pray for relief and comfort. We pray for joy where it can rise. And above all, assure us that we belong to you — today and forever. Continue the good work you have begun in us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 490

**God of grace and God of glory**

### **BENEDICTION**

May God who began a good work in you, Jesus Christ who walks with you each day, and the Holy Spirit who gives you strength, continue that work and bring it to completion in peace and hope. And all God's people said, "Amen."

**Sung Response- Go Now In Peace**

**Postlude**

**We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional  
Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*Next Sunday Worship on March 8, 2026, at North Pelham**

**\*Note of Thanks from Jean:** "Thank you to all my friends from Rockway and North Pelham for your phone calls, cards and prayers. I am doing well and hope to see you all soon." Jean Rubel

**\*World Day of Prayer Service -** Friday March 6 at Kirk on the Hill @ 2:00 pm. The World Day of Prayer is traditionally celebrated on the first Friday of March, though communities can choose other dates. A different participating country writes the service each year. This year the service is prepared by the WDP Committee of Nigeria 2026.

**\*Rockway's Annual General Meeting:** We invite you to join us for the 2026 Annual General Meeting and Celebration lunch in the basement after the service. All are welcome!

**\*RPCW Meeting:** The RPCW will meet on Wednesday, March 4, at the church at 1:30 PM.

**\*North Pelham's Annual General Meetings:** North Pelham's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on March 8, following the service. All are welcome as we reflect on the past year and look ahead together.

**\*Joint Session Meeting:** A Joint Session Meeting of Rockway and North Pelham will be held on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at North Pelham.

**\*Willing Workers Meat Pie Sale:** The Willing Workers are now taking orders for their famous Meat Pies. 9" Ground Beef or Chicken Pies are available for \$18.00 each. Pies are sold frozen and can be baked anytime. Orders can be placed by speaking to Janice Aulph at 905-246-9175. Pick up day for the Meat Pies will be Saturday, March 28, between 10 am and 1 pm.

**\*Monday Tai Chi & Qigong Continues!**

Join us on Mondays at North Pelham for our uplifting Tai Chi & Qigong classes! **1:30 PM** – Standing-focused group, **2:40 PM** – Seated-focused group. No experience needed—just come as you are and enjoy gentle movement, peaceful breathing, and joyful community. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Please speak to Joy or Rev. Jacob.

**\*Tuesdays – Quilting at North Pelham** - starting at 9:00 am

**\*Wednesdays - Bible Study:** Join us every Wednesday at 10:00 AM at North Pelham, led by our spiritual leader, Diane McMillan.

**\*Thursdays – Outreach Walking:** Join us for the Wellness Walk and Coffee Chat! We gather at 9:30 a.m. at Canada Games Park to start our walk together. After the walk, we meet at Rockway for a joyful chat over hot and fresh coffee at 10:45 am.

**\*Mid-Week Lenten Service – March 12:** Rockway and North Pelham will host a Mid-Week Lenten Service with Central Niagara Presbyterians on March 12 at 2:00 p.m. at North Pelham. We encourage all to join us for this meaningful time of worship, reflection, and fellowship as we journey together through the season of Lent.

**\*Prayer Requests and Pastoral Care:**

If you or someone you know is facing illness, grief, or any need, please contact your elder or Rev. Jacob: **Phone: 289-213-2797; Email: [jacoblee0501@gmail.com](mailto:jacoblee0501@gmail.com)** We are here to pray and care for one another. “Carry one another’s burdens.” (Galatians 6:2)