



**Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge**  
**North Pelham's AGM / Lent III, March 8, 2026**  
**Worship at Home**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Hear the good news of Scripture: *“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”* (1 Cor. 12:27)

**P: We are many people, yet we belong to one body in Jesus.**

**L:** Each of us comes with our own story, gifts, and struggles.

**P: Yet we are created by God and called to live in love with one another and with the earth.**

**L:** In Jesus, we are learning to grow into a community of care, compassion, and hope. Come, Holy Spirit, move among us and shape us into the body of Jesus.

**P: Let us worship God together.**

Hymn 471

**We are one in the Spirit**

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

God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
 You have created each of us in unique and wonderful ways. We praise you for the gift of life, for the good news of your risen Son, Jesus, for the guidance of your Holy Spirit, and for your unending love. In this season of Lent, as we reflect on our lives and seek to follow the way of the cross, draw us closer to you. Be with us in this time of worship. Open our hearts and minds so that we may grow in understanding and faith.

We long to follow the way of Jesus. Help us grow in love and grace. Heal the broken places within us so that we may live with greater freedom and hope.

You call us to be for one another what Jesus is for us: a compassionate companion on the journey of life. Yet we confess that we do not always live this way. Sometimes we focus on ourselves and forget to care for others. Sometimes we choose the easy path instead of the loving path. Sometimes we hesitate to be your hands, your feet, your voice, and your heart in this world. Forgive us, O God. Hear us now in the silence as we confess our personal sins and shortcomings before you. (Silence)

Merciful God, receive our prayers. Guide us by your Holy Spirit. Open our hearts to love more deeply. Open our eyes to see the needs around us. Give us courage to live as the body of Jesus—to stand for justice, extend grace, and walk in love. We pray all these things in the name of the risen Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying together:

**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 569

**I have decided to follow Jesus**

**Children of God's Moment****Prayer for Understanding**

Living God, open our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that through your Word we may grow to live as the body of Jesus in the world. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

**Responsive Psalm 133**

**Galatians 3:26–28; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27;**

**Romans 6:3–4; Galatians 2:19–20**

**SERMON****Becoming the Body of Jesus**

Our calling as learners and followers of Jesus can be described in a simple but powerful way:

To become, in all our brokenness and beauty, the body of Jesus for one another and for the world. This sentence helps us understand who we are and why we exist as a church. It reminds us that faith is not only something we believe. It is something we live. Through us, God's love flows into a world that is often thirsty for hope. Today I invite you to reflect with me on three movements in our calling: Becoming, Being the Body of Jesus, and Doing it Together

The first important word is "becoming." This word brings relief to our hearts because it reminds us that none of us has arrived yet. In our world, people often feel pressure to have everything figured out. We think we must be successful, confident, and always in control.

But faith does not work that way. Faith is a journey. We are always growing, learning, and being shaped by God. The journey begins when we decide to learn and follow Jesus and allow his Spirit to guide our lives. God is above us, giving us life. Jesus walks beside us, showing us the way. The Holy Spirit lives within us, guiding our hearts. Through this living presence, God strengthens us when we feel weak.

But sometimes we quietly ask ourselves a difficult question: Are we worthy of this calling? When we look at ourselves honestly, we often see our weaknesses. Each of us carries some kind

of brokenness. We may carry painful memories from the past. We may remember mistakes we regret. Sometimes we hear voices inside our minds telling us that we are not good enough.

But God does not look at us and see a mistake. God does not throw the clay away and start over. Instead, God gently works within our lives. God brings healing to our wounds and peace to our troubled hearts. Slowly, the weight of guilt, fear, and shame begins to lift. We begin to understand something important: Our brokenness is not the end of our story. Because there is another part of the story—our beauty.

The Bible tells us in Genesis that human beings are created in the image of God. This means that something of God's goodness and light has been placed inside every person. Sometimes we forget this truth. We see our weaknesses first. But God sees the beauty planted within us. Think of a seed. A seed may look small and ordinary, but inside it, there is life waiting to grow. If it is placed in good soil, it slowly grows into something beautiful. In the same way, God's image in us is meant to grow. As God heals our brokenness, the beauty within us begins to shine more freely. Becoming who God created us to be is a lifelong journey.

But what are we becoming? We are becoming the hands, feet, voice, and heart of Jesus. When Jesus lived on earth, people experienced God through him. They saw God's love in his actions. They heard God's truth in his words. They felt God's compassion in his presence. Jesus showed the world what God is like.

But after Jesus died and rose again, something new happened. His Spirit was given to his followers. Now the work of Jesus continues through the lives of his people. The church becomes the body of Jesus in the world. This means that Jesus' love continues through ordinary people like us. Whenever we help someone in need, Jesus' hands are working. Whenever we go to visit someone who is lonely or struggling, Jesus' feet are moving. Whenever we speak words of encouragement or hope, Jesus' voice is heard. Whenever we show compassion and forgiveness, Jesus' heart is revealed.

In this way, God's kingdom grows through simple acts of love. Sometimes we imagine that only great leaders or famous saints can serve God. But the truth is that Jesus often works through ordinary moments—through small acts of kindness, patience, and care. Even our struggles can become part of God's work. Our brokenness does not disqualify us. In fact, when people see how God has helped us through our own struggles, they discover that healing is possible for them too. So the question becomes very personal for each of us: Do we want to become the body of Jesus in the world?

Another important question follows. Do we live this calling alone, or together? The Bible is very clear: we are meant to live our faith together. The apostle Paul speaks about this in Galatians 3. He writes: "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith... There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

In Paul's time, these differences created strong divisions in society. They decided a person's status and value. But Paul says that in Jesus, something new happens. In Jesus, our differences do not determine our worth. No one is higher, and no one is lower. Every person is precious. This is what makes the church special. We become a community where people from different backgrounds belong together.

Paul explains this further in 1 Corinthians 12 by comparing the church to a human body. A body has many parts—hands, feet, eyes, ears. Each part is different, but every part is necessary. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you." The head cannot say to the feet, "You are not important." Every part matters.

In fact, Paul says that the parts that seem weaker are often the most important. The body of Jesus would be incomplete without you. Some people have gifts of leadership. Others have gifts of listening, serving, teaching, or encouraging. When all these gifts work together, the whole body becomes healthy and strong. In this kind of community, we celebrate each other's joys and support each other's struggles. No one has to carry life's burdens alone.

But where do we find the strength to live this kind of life? Paul reminds us that our life in Jesus is connected to the mystery of death and resurrection. In Romans 6, he writes that when we are baptized into Jesus, we share in his death and resurrection. And in Galatians 2, he says something powerful: "It is no longer I who live, but Jesus who lives in me."

This describes a deep spiritual transformation. The Christian life is not about trying harder to be good. It is about allowing Jesus to live through us. Our journey includes many small moments of dying and rising. Sometimes we let go of habits that harm us. Sometimes we release anger or resentment. Sometimes we surrender the fear of not being perfect. Each time something old dies, something new is born. Jesus becomes more alive in us. Over time we discover a deeper peace, a stronger hope, and a love that continues even when life is difficult. This transformation happens slowly, often over many years. But step by step, we become more fully the people God created us to be.

And in this season of Lent, we are reminded to open our hearts again to God's transforming grace, letting go of what holds us back so that we may grow more fully in love.

Following this service, North Pelham will gather for our Annual General Meeting. Meetings sometimes feel like business—budgets, reports, and decisions. But they are also part of our shared calling. As we listen, speak, and plan together, we are seeking how this church can continue to be the body of Jesus in this community.

May our conversation today be guided by the Spirit of God as we continue this journey of becoming together. Amen.

Special music

**Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by J.S. Bach**

Joy Jiyoung Joung

Hymn 635

**Brother, sister, let me serve you**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Doxology**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God,

receive these gifts and our lives as well. Use them to share the love of Jesus in this community and in the world, so that we may be his hands, feet, voice, and heart. Amen.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and for the People**

Gracious God, above, ground of our being,

We thank you for your love that surrounds us and sustains us. You have created us in your image and called us to belong to you. We thank you for finding us and stirring our hearts with faith. Even though we are broken and imperfect, you declare us worthy through your love and grace.

Thank you for walking with us through all the seasons of our lives, in times of joy and in times of struggle. When we feel weak or discouraged, you renew our faith and hope.

Today we remember again who we are: your children, called to live in the way of Jesus. Help us to keep becoming the hands, the feet, the voice, and the heart of Christ for one another and for the world. Even when this calling feels greater than our strength, you receive us just as we are and continue shaping us through your love. Awaken us again to our place as members of the body of Christ. Teach us to care for one another, to welcome others, and to grow together in faith.

Loving God, as members of the body of Jesus, you call us to carry the joys and sorrows of the world in our hearts. Thank you also, O God, for calling us to open our hearts to the cries and tears of our world—cries and tears that are also our own.

There is never a good war, whatever the reason. We pray for Iran in this time of upheaval and change—so much hope, and yet so much fear. Our hearts are broken by the loss of life, especially the lives of children, including even a one-year-old baby whose future was taken in a single moment. May your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We continue to pray for Tumbler Ridge and for all places where innocent people suffer and die. We pray for Gaza, Ukraine, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan, and other regions where war creates deep suffering and where freedom remains an unfulfilled hope for many. May your kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We also pray for churches across Canada in this time when the church is no longer central in many people's spiritual lives. We remember that many who once belonged to Christian churches have drifted away. We give thanks for those who were part of Rockway and North Pelham in generations past—our communion of saints—whose generosity laid the spiritual and financial foundations that sustain us today.

And now, O God, we take a moment in silence to name before you the people and situations we carry in our hearts. (Silence)

We continue to pray for Rev. Pearl, who has been in hospital; for Jean Rubel as she recovers from surgery; for Cyril Eybel, who is ill; for Linda Hanigan, who is tired from lovingly caring for her mother, Jean; for Robert Lampman as he continues treatments for cancer; and for Roy Johnson as he learns to live with the loss of his beloved wife, Fran.

For healing toward wholeness, we pray. For peace and acceptance in whatever comes, we pray. For joy and blessing even in the midst of struggle, we pray. For love given and received in times of pain, we pray. And for hope, hope rooted in compassion and care, we pray. We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 634

**Will you come and follow me**

### **BENEDICTION**

May the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit send you out to live as the body of Jesus in the world. 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 15, 2026, at Rockway**

**\*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

**\*North Pelham's AGM:** North Pelham's Annual General Meeting will be held today, 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: [jacoble0501@gmail.com](mailto:jacoble0501@gmail.com)** We are here to pray and care for one another. “Carry one another’s burdens.” (Galatians 6:2)