

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Worship | 8:30, 9:15, 11 a.m. (10:50 service resumes Jan. 3)  
Dr. Renwick tells the Christmas story for all ages with a 20 minute time for children and a 5 minute sermon.

Mission Gifts for Christmas | All morning in Stone Hall  
Cashiers will be available this Sunday for you to give to charities in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker. *You may also shop online through Dec. 26: [nationalpres.org/mission-gifts](http://nationalpres.org/mission-gifts)*

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays | 12:30 p.m.  
Culbertson Library (2nd floor, Admin. Bldg.)  
GriefShare's "Surviving the Holidays" series prepares you for the many emotions you'll experience in the weeks surrounding Christmas after facing loss and grief. *Contact: Barb Dear, [BDear@NationalPres.org](mailto:BDear@NationalPres.org) or 202.537.7540.*

CHRISTMAS EVE

*Thursday, December 24*

*Invite a friend!*

**Family Nativity Service 5 P.M.**

Children, youth, and adults perform a 45-minute narrated reenactment of the nativity story with lots of traditional carols and singing. A great service for families of all ages!

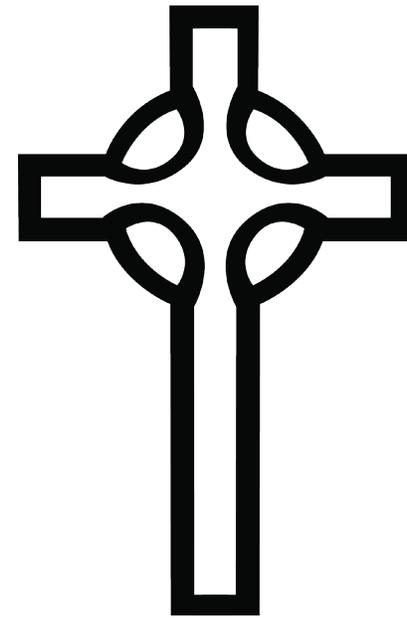
**Candlelight Services 8 P.M. & 10 P.M.**

Dr. David Renwick will preach in these beautiful candlelight services. Come sing carols, light candles, and receive communion.



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20016  
202.537.0800  
[www.nationalpres.org](http://www.nationalpres.org)

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ADVENT VESPERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015  
7 P.M.  
SANCTUARY

# Vespers in Advent

*Kindly turn off your cell phone and other electronic devices.*

## PRAYER AND MEDITATION

PRELUDE Matthew Daley, guest organist

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ HYMN 51 See, Amid the Winter's Snow *Humility*

## CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O God of the ages and ages to come, make us watchful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Savior.

When he comes, may he not find us sleeping in sin,  
but awake, and rejoicing in his praises.

Bring to light things hidden in darkness,  
even the shadows of our hearts.

Forgive our sins, we pray.

Then cleanse and renew us,  
that we may walk in your light and glorify your name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Regent Square*

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,  
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;  
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2-5a John Turpin

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY Born for Peace McLane Stone

ANTHEM When God's Time Had Ripened Alfred V. Fedak  
*Rose of Bethlehem*

When God's time had ripened, Mary's womb bore fruit,  
Scion of the Godhead, sprung from Jesse's root:  
So the True Vine branches from the lily's stem,  
The Rose without blemish blooms in Bethlehem.

More than mind can fathom, limit or untwine,  
This mysterious yoking, human and divine,  
But what reason fetters faith at length unlocks,  
And wise hearts discover truth in paradox.

As the Bread of heaven, that we might be fed,  
Chose a manger cradle in the House of Bread,  
So has Life Eternal mingled in the womb  
With our mortal nature to confound the tomb.

For this swaddled infant in a humble place  
Holds our hope of glory and our means of grace;  
In the Love enfleshed here dawns the world's rebirth,  
Promise of salvation, pledge of peace on earth.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Quinn Fox

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

### In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst  
*Cranham*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti

Prayer of Response and The Lord's Prayer

▲ HYMN 27 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child *Tempus adest floridum*

▲ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*An offering will be received at the doors as you exit.*