

VESPERS IN ADVENT

Reflections on "Chapter One of the Gospel According to John"

PRAYER AND MEDITATION

PRELUDE Joanna Jones, piano

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP *read responsively* Rev. Evangeline Taylor

One The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

All For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

All He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

▲ CAROL 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Stuttgart

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Believe the good news of the gospel.

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

THE ETERNAL WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE/MEDITATION John 1:1-4 Dr. David Renwick

One In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

One What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

▲ CAROL 309 Of the Father's Love Begotten *Divinum mysterium*

DARKNESS: THE REASON FOR THE LIGHT

SCRIPTURE/MEDITATION John 1:5-11

One The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

All He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

One He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

▲ CAROL 9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

THE GIFT THAT DEMANDS A RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE/MEDITATION John 1:12-14

One But to all who received him, who believed on his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

All And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

▲ CAROL 4 Creator of the Stars of Night *Conditor alme siderum*
Verses 1 & 2 *Choir* Verse 3 *Congregation*

MAKING GOD KNOWN

SCRIPTURE/MEDITATION John 1:15-18

One John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'"

All From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

One The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

▲ CAROL 40 Joy to the World! *Antioch*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Donna Marsh

Invitation to the Table

and Dr. Quinn Fox

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation What Child Is This John Rutter

What child is this who, laid to rest in Mary's lap, is sleeping;

Whom angels greet with anthem sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, who shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;

The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Prayer of Response and The Lord's Prayer

▲ CAROL 32 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Mendelssohn*

▲ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

ADVENT

Sunday Worship

9 & 11 a.m. (Sanctuary), 10:50 a.m. (Jones Hall)

Dec. 10: "My Spirit Rejoices!"

Rev. Donna Marsh

Dec. 17: "Not in Control"

Dr. David Renwick

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Sundays, Dec. 10 & 17, Stone Hall

Give to organizations serving those in need in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker! Visit nationalpres.org/mission-gifts to volunteer!

Handel's "Messiah" Concert

Sunday, Dec. 10, 5 p.m.

Make plans to bring your family and friends to NPC Festival Choir, Soloists & Orchestra's performance of Handel's masterpiece. *No tickets are required.*

CHRISTMAS EVE

11:00 a.m. // Morning Worship

Carols will be sung and Communion will be served as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

5:00 p.m. // Family Nativity Service

Kids, teens, and adults bring the Bible's nativity story to life in this music-filled narrated reenactment. Families of all ages are invited!

9:00 p.m. // Candlelight Worship

This beautiful evening candlelight service reverently ushers in Jesus' birth.

Invite a friend!



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December 6, 2017

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Leading People to Become
Faithful Followers of Jesus Christ
Together in God's World*

ADVENT VESPERS

*In the beginning was the Word...
and the Word was God.*

John 1:1

Senior Pastor Dr. David Renwick
Associate Pastors Dr. Quinn Fox, Rev. Donna Marsh,
Rev. Evangeline Taylor
Parish Associate Dr. Nancy Fox
Music Dr. Michael Denham (*Director*), William Neil (*Organist*)
Hilda Labrada Gore (*Contemporary Music Leader*)
Ministry Directors J. Theodore Anderson (*Library, Archives, & Older Adults*)
Kristin Franke (*Youth*), Cate McCrory (*Children*)
Leslie Saum (*Connections*), John Marienau Turpin (*Serve*)