

# NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Staying Connected in Christ*

11:00 AM Online Worship, November 15, 2020

Commitment Sunday

National Presbyterian School Sunday

## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

**PRELUDE** Voluntary in C major John Stanley  
Todd Fickley, organ

**CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Dr. David Renwick

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT** Elder Trevor Blow

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Acts 17:24-28 (*selected*) Rev. Todd Sutton  
Chaplain, National Presbyterian School

The God who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth.  
God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things, so that we can search for God and find him.  
For God is not far from any of us. Indeed, "*In him we live and move and have our being.*"  
**Let us lift up our hearts and voices, and together worship the Lord our God.**

**HYMN** *please sing!* Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise *St. Denio*

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small,  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish, but nought changeth thee.

**CONFESSION OF SIN** Rev. Sutton

Our Father in heaven, thank you for leading us into your light.  
We bless you for sending your Son our Savior to call us from death to life.  
We acknowledge that we were dead in sin before his call,

but have been made alive in him.  
Yet we confess that old habits are hard to break,  
and that sin and sinful patterns remain in our lives.  
Forgive us, O Lord. Guard us against this enemy within.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to live daily, the new life Christ calls us to live.

#### **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** *please sing!*

*St. Denio*

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in might,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee

Walter Chalmers Smith

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### **A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

Dr. Renwick

#### **SCRIPTURE**

#### **Acts 17:16-34**

Mr. Malcolm Lester  
Head, National Presbyterian School

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for his friends in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

<sup>18</sup>Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babbler want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup>So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, 'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?' <sup>20</sup>It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.'

<sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new. <sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said,

'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

<sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

<sup>28</sup>For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."<sup>29</sup>Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to

repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

<sup>32</sup> When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' <sup>33</sup> At that point Paul left them. <sup>34</sup> But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

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

**SERMON**

Good News for a Secular World

Dr. Renwick

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

### CHORAL RESPONSE

*Engelberg*

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold; and our despair he turned to blazing joy: *Alleluia. Amen.*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Dr. Quinn Fox

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS AND COMMITMENTS

To Know Thee

Dr. Renwick

Hank Beebe

To know thee is the goal my heart has set, to know thee is its greatest prize;

To know thee, though I feel that we have met, on dark roads where sadness lies;

To know thee when the storms of life increase, and I see no sheltered landing;

To know thee in a time of quiet peace that passes my understanding;

To know thee is to come to know the truth, the truth that will set me free.

I know not where my growing faith will lead, or how I may react in word or deed;

I do know that I have a crying need to know thee.

To know thee is to know how I should pray, to know thee is a prayer complete.

To know thee is to finally find my way with thy bright lamp unto my feet.  
To know thee is at first to know thy name, and speak it as one confessing;  
And finding that the mention of thy name re-echoes as a blessing.  
To know thee is to know my deepest self, to know thee uncovers me .  
I know of fame and fortune far and wide, I know of the rewards that they provide.  
I know that I would cast them all aside to know thee.

**DOXOLOGY**

*Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Katie Francis

**HYMN** *please sing!*

The Day of Resurrection

*Lancashire*

1. The day of resurrection! We tell it out abroad:  
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;  
and, listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth the song begin,  
let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.

John of Damascus

**BENEDICTION**

Dr. Renwick

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*Please stay online for the Congregational Meeting*

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
OF THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

**POSTLUDE**

Fanfares (from Suite Breve)

Craig Phillips  
Mr. Fickley

**MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020**

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order Moderator— Dr. David Renwick, Elder Bryce Pippert, Chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee
2. Quorum Call
3. Opening Prayer and Welcome
4. Motion from the Congregational Nominating Committee: To approve the slate of candidates recommended by the Congregational Nominating Committee as listed below. (Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the document containing the motion, the full list of proposed nominees and their background information.)
5. Voting Online (Musical Interlude by Mr. Fickley)
6. Adjourn

**To Vote**

- Locate the VOTE HERE button on the Worship Live page, directly under the Worship Live box. (If you are on “Full Screen” view, exit full screen and you will be on the Worship Live page.)
- For additional members of the congregation watching on one computer, please return to the VOTE HERE button, and submit a further vote.
- Once you have voted, please return to the Worship Live page to view the rest of the meeting and voting updates.

# Let's Stay Connected! Announcements for You

## Floral Dedication

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by Susan Denecke and family in honor of the late Harry and Louise Pinckernell, on their anniversary, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Prayers

Please be in prayer for Habitat DC, our local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a Christian nonprofit organization that believes that everyone deserves a home. Praise God for newly acquired properties and pray for Habitat and NPC volunteers as we work to provide honorable housing for our poorest neighbors.

## Online Congregational Meeting

An online congregational meeting has been called for **today, November 15, at noon**, following the 11:00 am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to receive and vote on a report from the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) on new session members, deacons, board members of the NPC Fund for Charitable Giving, and members of the new CNC. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the list of proposed nominees and their background information.

## Volunteer now to bring the Nativity to life!

We are excited to announce that we will be having an outdoor living nativity this Dec 19. Please [click here](#) for more info, or [click here](#) if you'd like to volunteer!

## Thanksgiving Meals for Little Lights

Youth and Families are invited to help pack bags with groceries for Thanksgiving dinner for families that receive service from Little Lights on tonight, 5:00-6:00 pm. You can [sign up to contribute here](#). Please contact [kfranke@nationalpres.org](mailto:kfranke@nationalpres.org) for details.

## Stewardship 2021

Today is Commitment Sunday!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to make your commitment today!

Building Faith  
Together in 2021

Can you commit to supporting God's



work in and through NPC in 2021? Please [click here](#) to make your commitment. For more information, [click here](#). Or if you have questions, you may contact [lskrine@nationalpres.org](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org) or call (202) 537-7495. As always, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!

## Adult Fellowship Meeting Online

Join us tomorrow, Nov 16th at 1:00 pm. Our speaker will be Mr. Herman B. Bouma, an associate with National Association for Objectivity in Science and member of the congregation. His presentation is entitled "*Charles Darwin's Response to His Critics and its Relevance for Today.*" Please [click here](#) or check our events page for the link to join.

## National Presbyterian School: Priority Applications Due Soon

Today we celebrate our partnership with National Presbyterian School and are joined by their talented principal, Malcolm Lester. NPC applications for 3-year-olds and Pre-Kindergarten are **due November 23**; Kindergarten and older are **due January 15**. NPS offers individual and weekly small group visit options via Zoom. Applications from NPC families receive special consideration. [Click here](#) for more information visit or contact Admissions Director Katy Harvey, [kharvey@nps-dc.org](mailto:kharvey@nps-dc.org) or (202) 537-7508.

### **An Online Service of Uniting Prayer for Our Nation and World**

All are invited to a special online prayer service Nov 18, 7:00-7:45 pm. In this season with many issues and concerns weighing on our hearts, nationally and globally, this will be an opportunity to come together as a congregation in prayer. Join on our [Worship Live page](#).

### **Thanksgiving Day: Food & Clothing Drive**

Give grace before you say grace this year on Thanksgiving! NPC will be holding a drive-through contact-free food and warm clothing drive on Thursday, Nov 26, 9-11 am. Please [click here](#) for the shopping list and more info.

### **Family-Friendly Thanksgiving Worship**

Please [join us online](#) at 11:30 am on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, as Pastor Katie Francis leads us in a special worship service. What a wonderful way to give thanks!

### **Family Advent Wreath Workshop**

On Sunday, Nov 29 at 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm, start the Christmas season right! Join us to make your family's advent wreath to use in your spiritual preparation for Christmas. Pick up your supply kit or join us at one of two seatings. As space is limited, reservations are required. [Please click here to register](#).

### **Connect LIVE on Zoom**

Immediately following online worship, you are invited to a casual virtual gathering where you can "pass the peace of Christ" with others and enjoy conversation. To join in, simply click the "Connect LIVE" button above the livestream window after the service.

### **Prayer LIVE**

Would you like to pray with a live person after worship? Please call 12-1 pm. A Pastor, Stephen Minister, or Deacon will be prepared to take your call. If all lines are busy, please leave a voicemail with your name and number and you will receive a return call. Phone: (202) 800-9121.

### **Colossians Series Now on YouTube**

Dr. Renwick's journey through Paul's letter to the Colossians is now on YouTube. Please [click here](#) to listen to this series and more!

## **Learn & Grow**

### **Wednesday Faith Connection**

We will be taking a break for the month of November. See you for Advent Vespers in December!

### **Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School**

You are invited to join us! You can check out our options for each group here:

- [Adult Sunday School info](#)
- [Children Sunday School info](#)
- [Youth Sunday School info](#)

### **Your Giving and Commitments Make a Difference: Thank you!**

Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ at this critical time. Not yet made a gift online or by phone? Go to [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving) or text "NPC" to 77977.

### **Re-gathering Volunteers Needed**

Step one to re-gathering is to recruit and train volunteers to act as greeters, guides and ushers. If you would like to help please [click here](#) to fill in the form, and we will be in touch.

### **Covid times are just plain hard!**

We are in this together. The Care/Connections staff have prepared resources to use during this time. Use them on your own or share with a friend. Feeling Isolated? Grieving? Anxious? Needing to have a hard conversation with someone? Find these resources on the [Care webpage](#) or contact [Liz Martin](#) or [Leslie Saum](#).