

Some elements of the service are pre-recorded

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Staying Connected in Christ

11 AM Online Worship, Sunday, December 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

*Today's worship will feature special
pre-recorded moments sung by our Chancel and Festival Choirs.*

PRELUDE

Pastorale
from the *Christmas Concerto*

Archangelo Corelli
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Marsh

HYMN *please sing!*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

1. Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Grant and Kristin Franke with Kate

CHORAL RESPONSE

Awake, Arise, and Hail the Morn

Mack Wilberg

Awake, arise, and hail the morn (*Hallelujah*), for unto us a Savior's born (*Hallelujah*);
See how the angels wing their way (*Hallelujah*) to usher in the glorious day (*Hallelujah*)!
To us a Child is born from heav'n (*Hallelujah*), to us the Son of God is giv'n (*Hallelujah*);
His name the Wonderful shall be (*Hallelujah*); his wonders heav'n and earth shall see (*Hallelujah*)!

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Come, join the angels in the sky (*Hallelujah*): Glory to God who reigns on high (*Hallelujah*);
Let peace and love on earth abound (*Hallelujah*), while time unfolds and years roll 'round (*Hallelujah*)!
Hark! What sweet music, what a song (*Hallelujah*), sounds from the bright celestial throng (*Hallelujah*);
Sweet song whose melting sounds impart (*Hallelujah*) joy to each raptur'd list'ning heart (*Hallelujah*)!
Our faith in grateful triumph boast (*Hallelujah*), these wonders of the Lord of Hosts (*Hallelujah*);
And trust the zeal that form'd the plan (*Hallelujah*) to perfect what zeal began (*Hallelujah*)!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND SILENT CONFESSION

Rev. Marsh

We praise you, O Lord, as we remember the coming of your Son our Savior.
We marvel that you revealed yourself in his Incarnation.
Your thoughts are beyond our most daring imaginations,
yet you have spoken simply and surprisingly for yourself
through the humble birth of a child in Bethlehem.
You have bent low to rescue us from dark and empty ways we have wandered.
Forgive us and hold us fast, gracious God,
as we behold your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *please sing!*

In dulci jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
now we need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls us one and calls us all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Katie Francis

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1-11

Rev. Marsh

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

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¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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

SERMON

Jesus' Coming—The Descent of Supremacy
Isaiah 53:1-3; Luke 2:1-7

Dr. Renwick

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL MEDITATION

René Clausen

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
"Christ the Babe was born for you"—infant holy, infant lowly.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

An Advent Affirmation

Dr. Quinn Fox

We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe, who speaks to us by his Spirit through what he has created and through what has been written for us in Holy Scripture.

We believe that at the right moment in time, God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.

We believe that this good news of great joy which heralded Jesus' birth also points us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to his empty tomb. There the angel's message "He is risen!" heralded the glorious good news of Christ's resurrection.

We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day, and to offer us new and abundant life.

We rejoice in the knowledge that one day he will return to rule in righteousness, to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Fox

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

Rev. Francis

Thou Who Wast Rich

Molly Ijames

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
Throne for a manger did surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for loves sake becamest man.
Stooping so low, but sinners raising heavenwards by God's eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou would'st have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

Frank Houghton

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DOXOLOGY

Regent Square

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Francis

HYMN

Joy to the World!

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing...
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy...
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found...
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love...

BENEDICTION

Dr. Renwick

CHORAL RESPONSE

Hallelujah!

G. F. Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Messiah

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ;
and he shall reign forever and ever, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Revelation 19:6, 16 & 11:15

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Renwick

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo," BWV 729

J.S. Bach
Mr. Fickley, organ

Let's Stay Connected! Announcements for You

Prayers

We celebrate the birth of a daughter to the Schroeder family.

Please pray for our mission partner Friendship Place as they provide care for people experiencing homelessness, from street outreach to mentoring to medical and housing assistance.

Winter Warmth Wish List

Missed the Thanksgiving Coat Drive? You can participate at home! Use Friendship Place's [Winter Warmth Wish List](#) to provide warmth for those in need! Please [click here](#) for more information about Friendship Place.

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Are you looking for a meaningful gift for a loved one? Visit our [Mission Gifts page](#) to select from a catalog of donations to organizations that are doing God's work locally and internationally.

Wednesday Evening Worship

Dec 16 at 7:00 pm, find peace for your soul and celebrate the true meaning of the season in these peaceful, prayerful evening worship services. Join us on Wednesdays in December on our [Worship Live page](#).

A Journey to Bethlehem Living Nativity

Join us Dec 19, 5:00-7:00 pm for a live outdoor nativity! Beginning with the prophecy of Isaiah and ending at the manger with the Magi, we will recall the memorable story of our Lord's humble birth through Scripture and song. Please [click here](#) for more info, [click here](#) to register to attend or [click here](#) if you'd like to volunteer!

Handel's Messiah re-broadcast

Hear NPC's majestic festival choir and orchestra in a moving performance of Handel's Messiah, recorded in 2019. Join us at 7:00 pm on Dec 20 on our [Worship Live page](#). Please [click here](#) for more info.

Floral Dedication

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Johanna Huijssoon and her husband Terry, in loving memory of her mother and his 'Mutti', Diny Huijssoon, remembering her December 14th birthday.

Christmas Eve

- 3:00 & 5:00 pm: (Online) The Christmas Story in Candles
- 7:00 pm: (In person) Outdoor Candlelight Celebration
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm: (Online) Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

[Click here](#) for all the details and mark your calendars!

U.S. Army Chorus broadcast

On Dec 21 at 1:00 pm, you are invited to watch and listen to delightful Christmas music brought to you by talented members of the Army Chorus, broadcast on our [Adult Fellowship Broadcast page](#) from the NPC Sanctuary. The music will be a festive mix of traditional and sacred Christmas music.

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.

Learn & Grow

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](#)

National Presbyterian School

Application deadline is January 15. Join us for a weekly small group information session via Zoom. NPS gives special consideration to applications from NPC families for Nursery (Age 3) through Sixth Grade. [Click here](#) for more information visit or contact Admissions Director Katy Harvey, kharvey@nps-dc.org or (202) 537-7508.

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.

Race Matters Series Now on YouTube

Dr. Renwick's discussion of matters of race titled "*God so loved THE WORLD: What to read? How to think? What to do?*" is now on YouTube. Please [click here](#) to listen to this series and more!

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](#).

Your December Giving Makes a Difference - Thank you!

Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship that comforts and inspires, classes and groups for all ages, pastoral care in times of difficulty, and service to those in our city and world.

- Recurring and one-time gifts can be made at nationalpres.org/giving.
- Make a gift from your phone by texting the letters NPC to 77977.
- Stock donations. Ask your broker to identify you as the donor. Deliver stock information to: Morgan Stanley DTC, Clearing Number: 0015, Client Account number: 504- 041937-387, Client Name: The National Presbyterian Church, Inc., NPC TIN: 53-0196611
- IRA Distributions: Required IRA minimum distributions made directly from your IRA to NPC are not subject to income taxes, which results in savings from a lower after-tax cost of the gift.

Thank you for your generosity!



Building Faith Together in 2021

It's not too late to show your support for 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 or call (202) 537-7495. As always, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!