

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Staying Connected in Christ*  
11 AM Online Worship, Sunday, December 27, 2020

CHRISTMASTIDE

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN *please sing!*

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

*Tempus adest floridum*

1. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in the manger;  
There, he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.
2. Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.
3. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.  
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;  
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dr. Renwick

Lord Jesus, your birth means little to us unless we are born again.  
Raise us, O Savior, that we may bow before your glorious throne.  
Fill us with a true sense of your grace and glory,  
which prevail against all darkness and sin,  
even the sinful shadows of our own hearts.  
In the afterglow of this holy season, forgive us once again.  
May we see afresh your coming among us, and the way of salvation you open before us.

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!*

*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**

Dr. Renwick

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Baptismal Questions

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

**Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing this covenant, God claims us as his own, as we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.**

Baptism

Whitson Andrew Huffman, Jr.

*Son of Alexandra Rogers Huffman and Whitson Andrew Huffman*

Prayer of Response

**SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 2:22-40**

Deacon Jeanne Su

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

SERMON

Touching Salvation

Dr. Renwick

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

**RESPONSE** *please sing!*

*St. Louis*

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels their great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Christmas Affirmation

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

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

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

Dr. Renwick

Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowery and Buddy Greene

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?

arr. Michael Denham

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy had come to make you new?

This child that you delivered would soon deliver you. Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would calm a storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy had walked where angels trod,

and when you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God? Mary, did you know?

Ethan Greene with Danielle Cho, cello

**CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY**

*Gloria*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
*Glo—ria in excelsis Deo! Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN** *please sing!*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Go Tell It*

*Refrain*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills, and everywhere;*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there came a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

**BENEDICTION**

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

Ms. Zorack-Greene, piano

# Let's Stay Connected! Announcements for You

## Prayers

We grieve the death of John LeFevre on December 19. Please email [lmartin@nationalpres.org](mailto:lmartin@nationalpres.org) to be informed about memorial services.

Please pray for Forman Christian College's witness for Christ in Lahore, Pakistan.

## Mission Gifts for Christmas

There's still time to give to Mission Gifts before the end of the year! Please consider visiting our [Mission Gifts page](#) to select from a catalog of donations to organizations that are doing God's work locally and internationally.

## Pathway of Christian Discipleship Online Class

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey on the Pathway of Christian Discipleship. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two half-day virtual Pathway class on Sat, Jan 23 and Sat, Jan 30. For more information please [click here](#).

## 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.

## Floral Dedication

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the Flower Ministry in loving memory of Mildred Wheat and in honor of Jerry Wheat remembering them with gratitude for their loving, cheerful and faithful years of service to NPC and to a multitude of missions and ministries.

## Learn & Grow

### Wednesday Faith Connection

Starting Jan 6, you are invited to join us on our [Worship Live page](#) at 7-7:45 pm, led by Dr. Quinn Fox.

### Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School

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

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

## Holiday Schedule

### Today, Dec 27

- Children's and youth Sunday school resumes Jan 10
- Adult Sunday school resumes Jan 3

### Jan 3

- Adult January Term speaker series starts, Jan 3 speaker: Astronomer Dr. Jennifer Wiseman, "*Amazing Universe! What's In the Stars for the Years Ahead?*" [more info](#)

### Jan 10

- Adult January Term speaker series
- Regular children's Sunday school
- Regular youth Sunday school

## 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](http://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.

Faith Giving	\$ 2,323,000
Facility Use Income	\$ 954,000
Other Income	\$ 1,204,000
Total Income	\$ 4,481,000
Total Expenses	\$ 4,117,000
Balance	\$ 364,000

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](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org) or call (202) 537-7495. As always, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!

## 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!

## 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](#).