









# December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Advent

WELCOME TO

# NATIONAL Presbyterian Church

Leading people to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ together in God's world

Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.

Luke 2:15

Senior Pastor Dr. David Renwick

Associate Pastors Rev. Donna Marsh Dr. Quinn Fox

Rev. Katie Francis

Parish Associates Dr. Nancy Fox

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

Music Dr. Michael Denham (Director)

Todd Fickley (Organist)

Joanna Zorack-Greene (Contemporary Music Leader)

Ministry Directors Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)

Terry Kumnick (Children) Leslie Saum (Connections)

# **WELCOME TO NATIONAL!**

We're so glad you're here! Please wear a mask at all times while indoors at NPC, regardless of your vaccination status. This means that masks should stay on throughout the entire worship service. Thank you for loving your neighbor.

#### Mission Gifts for Christmas Today, Stone Hall

Come to the festivities in Stone Hall today to celebrate God's lavish gifts. Gather with friends, visit exhibits, select your "gifts" from the Mission Gifts catalog, and pick up free gift cards and inserts for friends and family. Mission Gifts for Christmas provides a wonderful channel to give to others in need of God's Word, care, food and services. You may also click here or go to nationalpres.org/mission-gifts to shop online now through December 31.



You are invited to celebrate Christmas with us at National Presbyterian Church. To see a list of our activities for the Advent season, please visit our <u>Christmas webpage</u>. All of our worship services are both in-person and online.

Dec 19, Sunday 8:45 & 11:00 am The Christmas story told for all ages

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec 24:

# 2:00 pm: The Christmas Story in Candles

This special worship service will engage children and families alike in the story of Jesus' birth. To join our interactive online experience, please visit our <u>events page</u> for some optional preparation instructions.

# 5:00 pm: Family Worship Service

Bring the whole family and join us for a sweet time of re-telling the Christmas story that the kids will love! The centerpiece of this service is our annual Christmas story pageant, featuring our children's choir of angels and shepherds.

# 8:00 &10:00 pm: Candlelight & Carols Worship

These full, traditional Christmas Eve services with a message, prayers for today, and beautiful music will inspire you and fill you with hope.

To read more about our Christmas Eve services, please visit our events page.

Dec 26, Sunday 11:00 am One worship service
Jan 2, Sunday 11:00 am One worship service

# 8:45 AM WORSHIP

# Sanctuary and Online

#### WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING **Improvisations** Joanna Zorack-Greene, keyboard

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. David Renwick

▲ OPENING SONG Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story, nor proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

#### LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Members of the NPC Praise Band

#### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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!

#### Prayer of Adoration and Confession of Sin in unison

Dr. Quinn Fox

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

▲ Affirmation of Faith

Nettleton

Glory be to God the Father, glory also to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit,

Ever Three and ever One:

As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be;

Alleluia and thanksgiving, now and through eternity.

#### Dr. Fox

An Advent Affirmation 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 he will one day return to rule in righteousness, to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

# WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Renwick

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 Elder Sue Lockwood

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.<sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Innkeeper: Squeaking In Dr. Renwick

Hymn Once in Royal David's City Children come forward while congregation sings. Irby

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.

Mary was that mother mild, Jesus was Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all.

And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.

With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

#### A Time for Young Believers

Hymn: Away in a Manger Mueller

#### Scene I The Wise Men

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

#### Scene II The Wise Men and Herod

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my bed until morning is nigh.

# Scene III The Shepherds

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

#### Scene IV The Stable

Irby

Jesus is our childhood pattern, day by day like us he grew;

He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;

And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

#### CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Donna Marsh

There are offering plates at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes and gifts.

OFFERING SONG (Seated)

All Glory Be to Christ

Traditional, arr. by Dustin Kensrue

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive;

Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.

To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?

A mist that vanishes at dawn; all glory be to Christ.

#### Chorus:

All glory be to Christ our king! All glory be to Christ! His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true,

The Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new.

Behold, our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light.

And we shall e'er his people be; all glory be to Christ!

And we shall e'er his people be; all glory be to Christ! Chorus

#### ▲ ADVENT GLORIA

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!

#### Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Marsh

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.

#### ▲ CLOSING SONG

Light of the Stable

Steve and Elizabeth Rhymer

Hail, hail to the newborn king, let our voices sing him our praises.

Hail, hail to the guiding light that brought us tonight to our Savior.

#### Chorus:

Halle--, hallelujah (4x)

Come now, let it shine so bright to the knowing light of the stable.

Kneel close to the child so dear cast aside your fear and be thankful. *Chorus* 

Hail, hail to the newborn king, let our voices sing him our praises.

Hail, hail to the guiding light that brought us tonight to our Savior. *Chorus* 

#### ▲ Benediction and Passing the Peace of Christ

Dr. Renwick

▲ SENDING NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

# 11:00 am WORSHIP

# Sanctuary and Online

#### WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

What Child Is This

Richard Purvis Todd Fickley, organ

**CHIMES** 

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David Renwick

▲ Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story, nor proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Deacon Paul Waymack with John Henry and Stuart Waymack

#### ▲ Congregational Response

Regent Square

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

#### CONFESSION OF SIN in unison

Dr. Quinn Fox

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

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!

▲ Affirmation of Faith An Advent Affirmation

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

#### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Renwick

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 Elder Peggy Lewis

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The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Message Innkeeper: Squeaking In Dr. Renwick Once in Royal David's City

Children come forward while congregation sings. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.

Mary was that mother mild, Jesus was Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,

And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.

With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

#### A Time for Young Believers

Hymn: Away in a Manger Mueller

#### Scene I The Wise Men

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Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

#### Scene II The Wise Men and Herod

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my bed until morning is nigh.

# Scene III The Shepherds

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

#### Scene IV The Stable

Irby

Irby

Jesus is our childhood pattern, day by day like us he grew;

He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;

And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

#### CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Donna Marsh

There are offering plates at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes and gifts.

OFFERTORY

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Trevor Manor Kentucky Carol

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.

All the evil folks on earth sleep in feathers at their birth.

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.

Have you heard about our Jesus, have you heard about his fate?

How his mother went to the stable on that Christmas Eve so late?

Winds were blowing, cows were lowing, stars were glowing.

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.

From the East then came the Wise Men, bringing gifts from hin and you

For the mother and the father, and the blessed little Son.

Shepherds left their fields and flocks and sat beside the lowly ox.

with Phil Sargeant, oboe

#### ▲ ADVENT GLORIA

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!

#### PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Marsh

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.

# ▲ Hymn

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields as they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;

To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;

And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. Refrain

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Renwick

- ▲ Passing the Peace of Christ
- ▲ Postlude

From Heaven On High to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel Mr. Fickley

▲ Congregation standing, as able

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Adult Fellowship Broadcast Online Tomorrow, December 20 at 1:00 pm

Join us online with our special guest speaker Mr. Joseph J. Mettimano, President of the Central Union Mission, here in Washington. Mr. Mettimano will provide a program about the Mission and its work here in the metropolitan area since its founding in 1884. The spiritual foundation and overwhelming care for all people in need will be an interesting aspect of a unique Washington outreach for us to learn about. To join us, please visit our Watch page.

### Sunday School Schedule

Our children's, youth and adult Sunday School will <u>not meet on December 26 and</u> <u>January 2</u>. Classes resume January 9th with a new January-term line-up of adult classes. More information coming soon!

#### Come visit our new Welcome Center!

We have lots of helpful resources in our new Welcome Center (Bible Reading Guides, Care and Joy List, NPC info, etc.) just outside the Sanctuary. There are also friendly folks in the Welcome Center to answer your questions and get you connected here at NPC.

### Pathway Membership Class

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two half-day Saturday online Pathway of Christian Discipleship classes on January 22 and 29. More information can be found on our website, or contact Kemet Rakiatu to register by January 12th at 202.537.7578 or krakiatu@nationalpres.org.

#### **NPC Annual Christmas Ornament**

If you cannot attend our Christmas Eve services in person, we still want you to receive our gift to you - a 2021 commemorative ornament. If you would like to have one mailed to you, please click here or contact Leslie at <a href="mailto:lsaum@nationalpres.org">lsaum@nationalpres.org</a> or (202) 537-7494.

#### Need a Bible?

We have free gift Bibles in the narthex for you or anyone who does not have a Bible of their own. Please pick one up today as our gift to you!

# **Bible Reading Guides for 2022**

Go deeper into God's word with our convenient Bible reading guides. You can pick up a printed version in our Welcome Center or download your copy here from our Resources page. There are full-Bible and New Testament only versions to choose from.

# National Presbyterian School

Application deadline is January 14. 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. For more information visit <a href="https://www.nps-dc.org">www.nps-dc.org</a> or contact Admissions Director Katy Harvey, <a href="mailto:kharvey@nps-dc.org">kharvey@nps-dc.org</a> or (202) 537-7508.

# SUNDAYS AT NATIONAL

#### 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship

- Join us for worship in-person or online on our Watch page.
- Nursery & Toddler care for ages 0-4 years available throughout the morning.

#### 9:55-10:45 am: Sunday School

- Children's Sunday School for ages 2 years-5th grade
- Youth Sunday School for middle and high school students
- Adult Sunday School in-person or online To read the full Adult Sunday School
  class description and for Zoom links, please visit our <u>Adult Classes page</u> online.

#### 11:00 am: Traditional Worship

Join us for worship in-person or online on our Watch page.

#### Children's Check-In and Check-Out

These protocols help keep our children safe and provide a secure environment. Please visit one of our two check-in stations when you arrive in the main building. If you have question about check-in and check-out procedures, please visit our <a href="mailto:Children's Ministry">Children's Ministry</a> page or contact Terry Kumnick at <a href="mailto:tkumnick@nationalpres.org">tkumnick@nationalpres.org</a>.

# 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 by <u>clicking here</u>, visiting our Giving webpage or by using the QR code below.
- Make a gift from your phone by texting the letters NPC to (833) 414-9444.
- Stock donations. Ask your broker to identify you as the donor.

Deliver stock information to:

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney 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!



# SERVING AT NATIONAL

#### **Invite Your Friends!**

Christmas is a wonderful time to reach out to others and invite them to worship with us at National. Another great way to let others know about us is to leave a Google review or share our posts on social media.

#### Use Your Gifts to Bless Our Children!

Children's Ministry volunteers needed: Become a teacher, room aide, host docent or check-in/out host. For more information contact Terry Kumnick at <a href="mailto:tkumnick@nationalpres.org">tkumnick@nationalpres.org</a>

#### Do You Love to Sing and Love Children?

Children's song leader needed: We are looking for a special person to lead our children in songs of praise to the Lord on Sunday mornings! Please contact <a href="mailto:tkumnick@nationalpres.org">tkumnick@nationalpres.org</a> for more information or if you'd like to help.

#### Flowers to Share!

Have you noticed the little flower 'bud vases' at the center sanctuary entrance most Sunday mornings? The Flower Ministry team invites you to take one home to bless another... perhaps a shut-in, or someone in need of cheer or a thank you.

#### Call for Contemporary Service Musicians

Do you love to sing? Play guitar, drums, bass, violin, cello, flute or another instrument? Volunteer to play with the NPC band in the Contemporary service! For more information, please email Joanna Zorack-Greene at: jzorackgreene@nationalpres.org

**For more volunteer opportunities**, please visit our <u>Serve at Church</u> page!

# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For more information or to apply, please <u>click here</u> or visit our jobs page online.

# Administrative Assistant for Care Ministries (Full time)

Would you love to be on the front lines of helping our church members to access pastoral care and support? The Care AA plays a pivotal role in pastoral care case management, administrative support for the Care pastor and Care ministries, as well as coordination of funerals and special events. If you have a warm presence with people of all ages, strong administrative skills, the ability to quickly master our church database software (CCB), and can maintain airtight confidentiality, we would love to hear from you!

# Part Time AV Engineer

Some experience with audio engineering is required. Weekend and evening availability is a must.

#### Serve Ministries Director (Full time)

Is your passion mobilizing a congregation to participate in what God is doing to redeem the world? We need someone with highly developed organizational skills and relational skills to manage our complex program of grant-making, direct service, and witness. This involves working with our mission committees and councils to implement our vision, and leading them to explore fresh visions of God's call to our congregation.

#### **AV Part Time Assistant**

This entry level paid contract position is requires weekend availability, a positive attitude, excellent hearing and a willingness to learn.

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

#### New to National? Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for being with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Center just outside the sanctuary. We would love to meet you and we have a gift for you! Here are some easy online ways to connect with us:

<u>Click here</u> to sign our online guestbook. <u>Click here</u> or visit our home page at national alpres.org to sign up for our e-newsletter. Follow us on social media!

Facebook | Instagram | YouTube

# Join us for in-person worship (and we're always online)!

Ready to come back to church? Please do! Masks are required of all, but there is no pre-registration required, and no limit on the number of people in the sanctuary. For more information, please <u>click here</u> or visit <u>nationalpres.org/return</u>.

#### Prayer LIVE

Would you like to pray with a live person after worship? Please call 202.800.9121 between 12-1 pm. A 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.

### **Prayers**

# We pray for:

members and friends of National Presbyterian Church who are experiencing hardship during the Advent season.

### We pray for:

Little Lights Urban Ministries as they provide tutoring, friendship, holistic ministry and services to children and families living in poverty in DC housing projects.

### How can we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to Liz Martin,

<u>lmartin@nationalpres.org</u>, 202.537.7540.

#### Today's Flowers

To the glory of God, whom he served, and in honor of his December 23 birthday, the flowers in the Sanctuary are given by the family of Dr. Edward L. R. Elson (1906-1993), senior pastor of NPC for 28 years and Chaplain of the Senate for 12 years.





