

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday in Advent
Our Coming Savior
in Handel's *Messiah*

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*They shall bring gold and
frankincense, and shall proclaim
the praise of the Lord.*

Isaiah 60:6

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*)



TODAY AT NATIONAL

Welcome! 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 & Next Sunday, December 19, Stone Hall

Merry Christmas! 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.

"Shop" with us in Stone Hall today and next Sunday. You may also [click here](#) or go to nationalpres.org/mission-gifts to shop online now through December 31.

Mission Gifts Volunteer Opportunities

We need helpers for food preparation, hospitality, cashiers, decorating and take down. Please [click here](#) or visit nationalpres.org/mission-gifts to volunteer.

Angel Tree Gift Drop Off Today

If you signed up to provide Angel Tree gifts, please wrap your gifts with the child's name clearly marked and return them to the Christmas tree in Stone Hall today, or drop them by the church office before this Thursday, December 16.

Dominican Republic Youth Mission Trip Informational Meeting

8th-12th graders and their parents are invited to attend this meeting today at 10:00-10:45 am in the Multipurpose Room of the Agencies Building. The mission trip will take place on June 25-July 1, 2022. Please email Kyle Putnam at kputnam@nationalpres.org with questions. Registration opens on January 1.

5:00 pm Online Tonight!

Born for Us

Our Coming Savior in Handel's *Messiah*

Full Chorus and Orchestra

A Special Rebroadcast

of the 2019 NPC Festival Choir and Orchestra Concert

Invite your friends and join us on our [Watch page!](#)

8:45 and 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

Our Coming Savior in Handel's Messiah

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Sinfony

G.F. Handel
Todd Fickley, organ and String Quintet

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David Renwick

▲ HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

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!

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,

Please in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel,

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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

8:45 am Jason Hafemeister and Darci Vetter with Grace and Elijah Hafemeister

11:00 am Jonathan and Rachel Rajaseelan

SOLO RESPONSE

Isaiah 40:1-3

Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak comfortably to Jerusalem,

and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

11:00 am only

Isaiah 40:4

"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight, and the rough places plain."

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 the 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.

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

Rev. Marsh

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Renwick

Children grades K-5 will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.

Younger children may remain with parents (worship bags available) or parents may take to the Nursery.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLO Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 40:9

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Emmanuel, "God with us."

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up thy voice, with strength; lift it up, be not afraid.

Say unto the cities of Judah, "Behold your God."

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

8:45 Deacon Kathy Byus

11:00 Caroline Stewart

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

SOLO

Isaiah 9:2

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people;
but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

MEDITATION

The Wise Still Seek Him

Dr. Renwick

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Greensleeves

O bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving arms enthrone him.

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

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-8

Dr. Quinn Fox

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. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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. In that region there were shepherds, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

SOLO AND CHORUS

Luke 2:8, 10-11, 13-14

And there were shepherds abiding in the field,
 keeping watch over their flocks by night.
 And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
 and the glory of the Lord shone round about them,
 and they were sore afraid.
 And the angel said unto them,
 "Fear not: for behold,
 I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
 For unto you is born this day, in the city of David,
 a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."
 And suddenly there was with the angel
 a multitude of the heavenly host,
 praising God and saying,
 "Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace on earth, goodwill towards men."

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFT

Dr. Fox

*There are offering plates at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes and gifts.
 Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.*

OFFERTORY

Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 11:28-29

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
 and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
 Come unto him all ye that labor, come unto him all ye that are heavy laden,
 and he shall give you rest.
 Take his yoke upon you, and learn from him, for he is meek and lowly of heart,
 and ye shall find rest for your souls.

▲ ADVENT 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 onwe in glory while unending ages run.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Katie Francis

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

Joy to the World!

Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing...
Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy...
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...
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

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *11:00 am only*

Revelation 19:6, 16 & 11:15

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
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.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

Lord Christ, The Only Son of God, BWV 601

J. S. Bach

Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

WE WELCOME OUR MUSICIANS THIS MORNING

Soloists and Choral Ensemble:

Sheri Jackson, soprano
Tess Ottinger, soprano
Joanna Zorack-Greene, soprano
Mary Ellen Cain, alto
Lawrence Barasa, tenor
Sam Scarrow, tenor
Keaton Webb, tenor
Ethan Greene, bass-baritone
Kahaari Kenyata, baritone
Keenan McCarter, baritone

String Ensemble

Claudia Chudacoff, violin
Aga Kowalsky, violin
Michael Polonchak, viola
Todd Theil, cello
Victor Holmes, contrabass

Brass

Woody English, trumpet
Dennis Edelbrock, trumpet

Timpani

Adam Green



Celebrate Christmas with us!

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 [Christmas webpage](#).

All of our worship services are both in-person and online.

Dec 12, Sunday 8:45 & 11:00 am Featuring music from Handel's *Messiah*

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 [events page](#) 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 and fill you with hope.

For 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Session Update

At the December meeting the Session:

1. **Reviewed and retained the mask policy for worship.** The Session decided to maintain the policy of masks in worship until a further review in January. In making its decision, Session considered the following:
 - Ramifications of the Omicron variant are as yet unknown;
 - Children are still in the process of receiving the vaccine;
 - Crowds at Christmas services will be larger and closer;
 - While DC has dropped its mandates, it has also increased its warnings for organizations to be watchful;
 - Montgomery County recently reversed its "no mask needed" policy;
 - The winter season increases seasonal viruses.
2. **Presented Mary Jo Pera with the Duane Barney Award** in recognition of extraordinary accomplishment by a lay leader at NPC. Elder Pera shepherded the Facility Master Planning process and the 2020-21 facilities renovation at great personal sacrifice.
3. **Approved Resettling an Afghan Refugee family.** Timing may be any time in the next 12 months in cooperation with our partner organization, Lutheran Social Services.
- 4 **Reviewed a first draft of the NPC 2022 budget.**

Sunday School Schedule

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

Adult Fellowship Broadcast Online Monday, 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 [Events page](#).

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.

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!

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 www.nps-dc.org or contact Admissions Director Katy Harvey, kharvey@nps-dc.org 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 [Adult Classes page](#) 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 [Children's Ministry page](#) or contact Terry Kumnick at tkumnick@nationalpres.org.

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 [clicking here](#), on 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

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 tkumnick@nationalpres.org.

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 tkumnick@nationalpres.org for more information or if you'd like to help.

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.

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 [Serve at Church](#) page!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For more information or to apply, please [click here](#) 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:

[Click here](#) to sign our online guestbook.
[Click here](#) or visit our home page at nationalpres.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 [click here](#) or visit nationalpres.org/return.

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 mourn with:

The family of Senator Robert Dole who died on December 5.

We pray for:

Martha's Table as they provide nutrition, literacy and clothing to neighbors in need.

How can we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to Liz Martin,

lmartin@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7540.

Today's Flowers

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



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW
WASHINGTON DC 20016
202.537.0800
WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG



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