

December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

Welcome to  
**NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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

*Long ago God spoke to our ancestors  
in many and various ways by the prophets,  
but in these last days he has spoken to us  
by a Son... He is the reflection of God's glory  
and the exact imprint of God's very being.*

Hebrews 1:1-3

Transitional Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastors

Rev. Allan Poole  
Rev. Donna Marsh  
Dr. Quinn Fox  
Rev. Lisa Larsen

Parish Associates

Dr. Nancy Fox  
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

Music

Dr. Michael Denham (Director)  
Todd Fickley (Organist)  
Joanna Zorack-Greene  
(Contemporary Music Leader)

Ministry Directors

Jonathan Edwards (Serve)  
Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)  
Jill Meek (Children)  
Leslie Saum (Connections)



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## Today and January 1, New Years Day

We will have a single worship service at 11:00 am both Sundays. Childcare will be provided for ages up to 4 years.

## Sundays at National

Starting January 8, our Sundays will return to our regular schedule. Our worship services are in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch](#) page.

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School for all ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship

## January 8, 15 and 22 Adult Sunday School Classes

During January, our Adult Sunday School will offer some unique opportunities to grow in your faith. For all the details, please [click here](#) or visit our Adult Classes page online.

Class Title	Teacher(s)/Facilitator(s)	Location
<i>The Book of Psalms: A Mirror of Our Soul</i>	Dr. Tremper Longman	Chapel and online
<i>Christianity, Science and Social Development</i>	David Siegrist	Garden Room C
<i>Intro to Bioethics with Considerations for Christians</i>	Patrick Zhou	Garden Rooms A & B
<i>Encountering God in Creation and Creativity</i>	Beverly Tam and Margaret Gardner	Stone Fellowship Hall
<i>Parent Gathering</i>	Kristin Franke and others	Jones Hall in the Education Building

## January 29 Adult Sunday School Class

On January 29 all adults will meet in Stone Fellowship Hall for our large group gathering, *How to Be a Patriotic Christian* with Richard Mouw. On February 5, the spring Adult Sunday School class semester will begin.

## Youth Sunday School Resumes January 8

Please [click here](#) or visit our [Youth page](#) online for more information about Sunday School and other youth events. Youth grades 6-12, please come to the Multipurpose Building for Sunday School. We'll meet there briefly then split to smaller groups by age.

## Children's Sunday School Resumes January 8

Please [click here](#) or visit our [Children's page](#) online to read about our Children's Ministry.

- The Nursery rooms are available for all infants to walkers, up to age 4, 8:30 am-noon, including during the Sunday School hour.
- Children ages 2-3 years have their Sunday school program in the Toddler Room in the main church building.
- Classes for age 4 through 5th grade are held in the Education Building (National Presbyterian School).

# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

---

*Welcome! Masks are optional at our services, with the exception of the balcony and the lectern-side transept (at the front on your right), where masks are required. Our ushers are happy to guide you to your preferred seating area.*

## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Gesù Bambino

Pietro Yon  
Todd Fickley, Organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 49

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O God our loving Father, help us rightly remember the birth of Jesus  
that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.

May this Christmas morning make us happy to be your children,  
and this Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful hearts,  
forgiven and forgiving for Jesus' sake.

Robert Louis Stevenson

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

A Christmas 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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Quinn Fox

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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.**

Baptismal Questions

Baptism

Wells Rolison Bailey

*Son of Heather Bryant Bailey and Bradley Rolison Bailey*

*Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-18

Elder Margaret Gardner

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

SERMON

Dr. Fox

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

HYMN 309

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Divinum Mysterium*

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Marsh

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

OFFERTORY

Shepherd's Story

A Reflection in Poetry and Song

*The night, the air were filled with joy as angels sang among the heav'ns.  
 I stood before a newborn boy; who was the wondrous child there giv'n?  
 We'd left our flocks out in the fields, and answered heralds' sounding call;  
 They cried, "Emmanuel has come!" he lay in lowly cattle stall.  
 We crept into a manger cold; but for straw his bed was bare.  
 Was this the One they wrote of old? Could this be our Messiah—there?  
 To Bethlehem he was to come, and it is here he rests his head;  
 Near you, O great Jerusalem, in Ephrathah the prophet said.  
 It is fulfilled, he's come to earth, God with us now, O Israel!  
 The shepherd here beholds his birth, with ox, and ass, and Gabriel!  
 What mystery this that I might see the passing of this holy hour:  
 A child, the Savior come for me. O Lord, be mine, for I am yours.*

How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far? Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?  
 Can we see the little child, is he within? If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?  
 May we stroke the creatures there, ox, ass, or sheep? May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?  
 If we touch his tiny hand, will he awake? Will he know we've come so far just for his sake?  
 God in his mother's arms, babes in the byre sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

Dr. Michael Denham

▲ 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!  
 Glo—ria in excelsis Deo! Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

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.

▲ HYMN 327

O Word of God Incarnate

*Munich*

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Fox

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Marsh

▲ POSTLUDE

Fantasia on "In Dulci Jubilo"

J. S. Bach  
Todd Fickley, Organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Bible Reading Guides for 2023**

Why not make 2023 the year you read through the Bible? One way to do this is by using a Bible reading guide. You can pick up a printed version in our Welcome Center or [download your copy here](#) from our Resources page. If you'd like to just read the New Testament, please [click here](#).

## **Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)**

### **Friday, January 6 at 7:00 pm**

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Invite your friends and join us for fun, faith, and fellowship. If you are interested in attending, please contact [jmeek@nationalpres.org](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org) or check our [Events page](#) for more information and meeting dates.

## **Men's Breakfast**

### **Saturday, January 7, 8:00 am**

All men are invited to join us in-person on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Our January speaker is Bill Bennett discussing *A Brief Overview of Our Neighbor the District of Columbia*. Please email Kristi Teems at [kteems@nationalpres.org](mailto:kteems@nationalpres.org) for more information.

## **2nd Sunday Sandwich Making**

### **January 8 after 11:00 am Worship**

Join us in Stone Hall to make 400 sandwiches for Martha's Table. McKenna's Wagon delivers food to the hungry on the streets of DC every day of the year. This is a great event for the whole family!

## **Weather Announcements**

If weather is looking dicey, please be sure to check the home page of our website for a banner announcement of any cancellations or closures. We also have a link to [Weather Announcements](#) at the bottom of our home page.

## **Mission Gifts for Christmas**

Merry Christmas! It's not too late to contribute to missionaries and organizations. To order online until midnight on December 31 [click here](#).

## **Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturdays, January 21 & 28, online**

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two-day online Pathway of Christian Discipleship classes on January 21 & 28. Please [click here](#) for more information or contact Kemet Rakiatu to register by January 11th at [KRakiatu@NationalPres.org](mailto:KRakiatu@NationalPres.org) or 202.537.7578.

## **NPC Job Opportunities**

- Children's Ministry Summer Intern
- Youth Ministry Summer Intern
- AV Engineer (Part time, contract)
- AV Assistant (Part time, contract)

For more information or to apply, please [click here](#) or visit our [Jobs page](#) online.

## **Experiencing the challenges and opportunities of aging?**

Do you need help addressing matters related to aging or caring for aging family members? NPC is blessed to have a partnership with the non-profit organization, IONA, and access to a geriatric social worker who is available to help our church family. Please email Lisa Larsen at [LLarsen@nationalpres.org](mailto:LLarsen@nationalpres.org) or call the Care office at 202-537-7537 for more information.

# DECEMBER GIVING - FINISH THE YEAR STRONG!

Your financial generosity will help National to continue 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. Help us meet the annual budget and achieve all that God wants from NPC by giving today. There are many ways to do so:

- Recurring and one-time gifts can be made by [clicking here](#), visiting our Giving webpage or by using this QR code:  

- 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 #: 504-041937-387  
Client Name: The National  
Presbyterian Church, Inc.  
NPC TIN: 53-0196611
- Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA for individuals 70 ½ or older: 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.
- Make a gift from your phone by texting the letters NPC to (833) 414-9444.

For help or questions about giving, please contact our Finance Office at 202.537.7495 or email our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine at [lskrine@nationalpres.org](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org).

## Report of Faith Giving Through December 19, 2022

Year-to-Date Giving	\$2,616,000
Annual Budget	\$3,192,000
Shortfall	(\$576,000)

## This Coming Week at a Glance

For information about all of these events, please see our [Events page](#) online.

**December 1-31:** [Mission Gifts for Christmas](#) available online

**Today, December 25, Christmas**

- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship

**Monday, December 26**

- NPC offices closed for holiday

**Sunday, January 1, New Years Day**

- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship

**Monday, January 2**

- NPC offices closed for holiday

## Special Nativity Crèche in the Welcome Center

A number of years ago the church was bequeathed a large nativity crèche by Mary Elisa Norment and family. The crèche pieces were collected over many years by Mary Elisa's father. She donated the crèche to the church so that others could share in the joy that her family had in using it as part of their yearly Christmas celebrations

# THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

## 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](http://nationalpres.org) to sign up for our e-newsletter.
- Follow us on social media!  
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

## Children and Youth E-newsletters

If you have little ones or youth in your household and would like to receive our updates, please:

- [Click here](#) or visit our Children's page for kids up to 5th grade.
- [Click here](#) or visit our Youth page for kids in middle and high school.

## Prayers

**We praise God for the gift of his son,  
our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

### We pray for:

Dustin and Sherri Ellington  
as they train pastors to  
proclaim the gospel in Lebanon.

### How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to  
Wray Muoio in the Care Office,  
[wmuoio@nationalpres.org](mailto:wmuoio@nationalpres.org)

202.537.7540

## 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.

Let's finish 2022 strong! You can support the general ministry of National:

- Go to [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving)
- Text "NPC" to 833.414.9444
- Scan the QR code below:



If you haven't yet made your 2023 commitment, please visit [nationalpres.org/gratefulgiving2023](http://nationalpres.org/gratefulgiving2023) or scan the QR code below to make your commitment online.



Want to support the Capital Building Campaign? Please click [here](#).

For help or questions about giving, please contact our Finance Office at 202.537.7495 or email our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine at [lskrine@nationalpres.org](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org).

## Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are offered to the Glory of God by the Singh family, in honor of Girvan Maxwell Singh's December 26th birthday.



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20016  
202.537.0800  
[WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG)



/NATIONALPRES  
@NATIONALPRES