

December 26, 2021

Christmastide



Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all they had heard and
seen, as it had been told them.*

Luke 2:20

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*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Sunday Schedule

- Today & January 2: 11:00 am worship, toddler and nursery care available 10:30 am-12:30 pm
- January 9: 8:45 & 11:00 am worship, 9:55-10:45 Sunday School classes resume with a new January-term line-up of adult classes.

Mission Lunch & Learn, January 9, 12:30 pm

Join us for an update by representatives from McGilvary College of Divinity in Thailand.

Adult Fellowship Broadcast Online Monday, January 10 at 1:00 pm

Join us online with our special guest speaker Terry Kumnick, NPC Director of Children's Ministry. To join us, please visit our [Watch page](#).

Mission Gifts for Christmas

It's not too late to contribute! To order online until midnight on December 31 please [click here](#) or visit nationalpres.org/mission-gifts.

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.

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.

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](#), 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 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.



Thank you for your generosity!

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

*Welcome! Please wear a mask at all times while indoors at NPC, regardless of your vaccination status.
Masks should stay on throughout the entire worship service.
Thank you for loving your neighbor in this way!*

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

“Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance?”

Harrison Oxley
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ HYMN 27

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Tempus adest floridum

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.
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.
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 *in unison*

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,
As you 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

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 Colossians 1:15-20 Dr. Stoltzfus

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—
all things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Rev. Donna Marsh

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

Mae Matheson Thomas

Daughter of Erin Hatch Thomas and Benjamin Robert Thomas

Prayer of Response

Dr. Stoltzfus

Younger children may remain with parents (worship bags available).

Parents may take children age 4 and under to the Nursery.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Marsh

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20 Eleanor Schmitt

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Morning After Dr. Stoltzfus

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Humility

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
*Hail that ever-blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

Say, astonished shepherds, say, tell your joyful news today.
Why left you your tended sheep on the lonely mountain steep?
*Hail that ever-blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

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.

OFFERTORY

A Shepherd's Story

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

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!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens there came a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Stoltzfus

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

Chorale Fantasia on "In Dulci Jubilo"

J.S. Bach

Mr. Fickley

- ▲ Congregation standing, as able

SUNDAYS AT NATIONAL

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.

8:45 am: Contemporary Worship (resuming January 9)

- 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 (resuming January 9)

- 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 - see below for the January class schedule.

11:00 am: Traditional Worship

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

Adult Sunday School January Term

In January, Adult Sunday School will meet at 9:55-10:45 am as follows:

Parent Gathering: Will continue to meet each week in the Education Building, re-starting after the holidays on January 9.

3-week mini sessions: January 9, 16 and 23 we offer a choice of 4 new classes, locations TBA:

- *Poetry & Prayer as Conversation with God*, Teacher: Margaret Gardner
- *The Case for a Creator*, Teacher: David Siegrist
- *Bioethics in Private and Public Life*, Teacher: Patrick Zhou
- *God, Death, and Evil: Issues of Theodicy*, Teachers: Carol Cadou & Donald Borchert

January 30: We'll meet as a large group in Stone Hall for a presentation by Dr. David Renwick.

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.

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.

Youth and Children's Summer Interns

Applications are now open for summer interns for our youth and children's ministry! These full-time, paid internships are great opportunities to learn about ministry, spend time with younger NPC members, and grow in your own faith. Applications are due January 10, minimum age is 18.

AV Part Time Assistant

This entry level paid contract position 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 pray for:

the families and victims of the December 11 tornados.

We pray for:

Ted and Joy Carr as they serve with ProVision International in Southern Africa.

How can we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to Liz Martin,

lmartin@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7540.

Tornado Relief

If you would like to contribute to helping the victims of the December 11th tornadoes in Kentucky, Illinois and beyond, NPC is partnering with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program for this purpose. Please [click here](#) for more information and [click here](#) to give.

Today's Flowers

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



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