

December 24, 2021

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Leading People to Become
Faithful Followers of Jesus Christ
Together in God's World*

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT & CAROLS

8:00 AND 10:00 PM

*And the Angel said to the shepherds:
"Fear not! For I bring you good news
of great joy
for all the people."*

Luke 2:10

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*)

Ministry Directors Joanna Zorack-Greene (*Contemporary Music Leader*)
Kristin Franke (*Youth & Families*)
Terry Kumnick (*Children*)
Leslie Saum (*Connections*)



We are delighted that you have joined us this Christmas Eve
to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please join us for worship on Sunday, December 26
and Sunday, January 2, 2022

11:00 am in the Sanctuary

You are welcome every Sunday!

Full schedule resumes on January 9, 2022:

8:45 & 11:00 am: Worship in the Sanctuary and Online

9:55–10:45 am: Sunday School for all ages



Gracious and merciful God,

We remember how your Son quietly entered human history
on that first Christmas Eve.

We come before you in wonder, adoration, and humble repentance.

We are your children, but in need of your healing touch.

Forgive our sins and cleanse us, we humbly pray.

Capture our hearts and minds with the quiet splendor
that transformed a manger into heaven's throne.

Were it a thousand times more fair,

it still would be too poor a cradle for you, dear Jesus.

Holy Child, make for yourself a place within our hearts,

that each of us may keep for you a quiet, holy chamber.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

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;

Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Now ye 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!

▲ A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

8:00 pm Rev. Francis

10:00 pm Rev. Donna 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 one day he will return to rule in righteousness,
to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Renwick

HYMN

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
 Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
 Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
 Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light.
 With the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King.
 Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

BENEDICTION

Dr. Renwick

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Stille Nacht"

Todd Fickley

▲ = *Congregation standing as able*

All are invited for Christmas cookies in Stone Hall following the **8 pm** service.

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6

2022 AT NATIONAL

Sundays at National are full of inspirational preaching, joyful traditional and contemporary music, Christian education classes for all ages and stages, and time to connect with one another. A sampling of events and programming for the upcoming year:

Sunday School for Adults, Youth and Children resumes January 9

Know and grow in God's Word through weekly Sunday School opportunities for all. In addition, Club 45 (4th and 5th graders) meet each month for a time of fun, faith and friends.

Youth

Middle and high school students gather regularly for fun games, meaningful conversation, and Bible study.

Vacation Bible School

A week-long half-day Bible camp in July for kids age 4 through 5th grade. Each day includes Bible teaching, music, crafts, games and service projects.

Youth Summer Trips

High School students will travel to the Dominican Republic for a week-long mission trip, and middle school students will attend camp together.

Seasonal Food Drives and Great Day of Service

Year-round opportunities to serve, including a special day of service with family-friendly, hands-on service projects here at National and in the surrounding community.

Care and Support

Those going through a difficult time can find a listening ear, prayer, and sustained spiritual support in times of transition or grief.

Small Groups

Our welcoming small groups gather throughout the week in person and online for Bible study, book discussion, prayer, support, and time with each other.

Large Groups

Our large groups include Men's Breakfast, Women's Fellowship Dessert Nights, Military Ministry, Senior Adults, Chancel Choir and Festival Choir.

Prepare for Marriage Workshop

Couples planning to get married in 2022 are invited for a day of preparation, information and reflection. Required for couples whose weddings will be held at NPC or officiated by one of our pastors; engaged couples planning to marry in another setting are welcome to participate on March 12, 2022.

You'll find the details about these and more at www.nationalpres.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 lsaum@nationalpres.org or (202) 537-7494.

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. Please visit our [adults Classes page](#) online for the class list.

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

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

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 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.

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.

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.

PRAYERS

We pray for:

Those serving in the military or foreign service.

How can we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to

Liz Martin,

lmartin@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7540.



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