

December 31, 2017

# Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

CHRISTMASTIDE

*Is there a thing of which it is said,  
"See, this is new?"*

Ecclesiastes 1:10

Senior Pastor	Dr. David Renwick
Associate Pastors	Dr. Quinn Fox, Rev. Donna Marsh, Rev. Evangeline Taylor
Parish Associate	Dr. Nancy Fox
Music	Dr. Michael Denham ( <i>Director</i> ), William Neil ( <i>Organist</i> ) Hilda Labrada Gore ( <i>Contemporary Music Leader</i> )
Ministry Directors	J. Theodore Anderson ( <i>Library, Archives, &amp; Older Adults</i> ) Kristin Franke ( <i>Youth</i> ), Cate McCrory ( <i>Children</i> ) Leslie Saum ( <i>Connections</i> ), John Marienau Turpin ( <i>Serve</i> )



We are delighted that you have joined us for worship this morning.

You are welcome every Sunday!

*Full schedule resumes next Sunday on January 7:*

Worship: 9:00, 10:50, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30–10:30 a.m.



# 11 A.M. WORSHIP

*Sanctuary*

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

William Neil, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 68 *verses 1-3*      What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright      *Puer nobis nascitur*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 68, verse 4

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O God, you do not change with the changing years,  
but we are creatures of time.  
As we look back on the road we have traveled,  
we thank you for your faithful mercies along the way.  
Where the road has been dark, you have not failed us,  
though we have often failed you.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
You are both our guide and goal.  
Your companionship is our strength and stay.  
In this new year we would walk with you,  
for you alone can bring us to our journey's end in peace.

Leslie Weatherhead

SILENT CONFESSION

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!

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Quinn Fox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Elder John Bernbaum

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Looking Backward, Looking Forward

Dr. Quinn Fox

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

HYMN 275

God of Our Life

*Sandon*

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Rev. Evangeline Taylor

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

All Thanks to Thee

Siegfried Ochs

All thanks to thee, for thou hast led thy people forth: Israel safe through the sea.

Like as a shepherd leads his flock, Lord, thy hand guidest; in thy goodness thou art our help.

Dr. Michael Denham and William Neil

▲ CHRISTMASTIDE DOXOLOGY

*Regent Square*

Praise and honor to the Father, praise to God's incarnate Son,  
Praise and honor to the Spirit: God th' Eternal Three in One;  
One in grace and one in glory while unending ages run.

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

▲ HYMN 210

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

*St. Anne*

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Gloria*

Glo---ria in excelsis Deo!  
Glo---ria in excelsis Deo!

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

William Neil, organ

THANK YOU, BILL NEIL AND PASTOR EVANGELINE TAYLOR!

Come down to Stone Hall this morning and wish a warm farewell to our beloved  
Pastor Evangeline and organist Bill Neil, who are both retiring today from NPC.

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in gratitude  
to Bill Neil and Evangeline Taylor.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Final Opportunity to Give!

Our annual **Mission Gifts for Christmas** program provides the opportunity to give to charities in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker. **Shop online through the end of today:** [nationalpres.org/mission-gifts](http://nationalpres.org/mission-gifts)

## Love Gift Opportunities

Today Pastor Evangeline Taylor and organist Bill Neil will be retiring from National. If you would like to contribute to a love gift, please give online at [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving) or write a check to the church, with “Evangeline Love Gift” or “Bill Love Gift” in the memo line.

## NEXT SUNDAY

### “January Term” Classes for Adults

**Sundays, Jan. 7–28, 9:30 a.m.**

A variety of three week courses will take place in January, with a closing plenary session on Jan. 28 with Karen Wright Marsh, Director of Theological Horizons, who will lead us in thinking about “Vintage Saints and Sinners.” *Class descriptions are available at [nationalpres.org/adults](http://nationalpres.org/adults)*

### Parent Gatherings: Milestones in Life and Worship

**Sundays in January, 10–10:30 a.m.  
Elson Parlor**

Join other parents for coffee, conversation, and a brief study.

- **Jan. 7:** “Talking to our Children about God’s Gift of Sexuality,” Kristin Franke
- **Jan. 14:** “The Bible,” Magruder Dent
- **Jan. 21:** “Communion,” Alison Dickey
- **Jan. 28:** “The Reformation,” Betty Elliott

## Women's Ministry

Come explore how to find hope in God’s word, work and world.

- **Wednesday Women:** Wednesday, Jan. 3, Room 105 10:30 a.m.–Noon

## Book Discussion

**Thursdays, beginning Jan. 4  
7:15–8:45 p.m., Elson Parlor**

We will discuss the science fiction of C.S. Lewis (his “space trilogy”), beginning with an introduction on January 4. *Learn more at [nationalpres.org/book-study](http://nationalpres.org/book-study)*

## Men’s Breakfast

**Sat., Jan. 6, 8–9:30 a.m., Stone Hall**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast and a presentation by Dr. Quinn Fox on the theme “Becoming What We Love.” *Reserve your place: [men@nationalpres.org](mailto:men@nationalpres.org) or call 202.537.7527.*

## Sandwich Making Sunday, Jan. 14, Stone Hall

All ages can help feed the hungry in our city by making sandwiches for the homeless to be distributed through NPC mission partner Martha’s Table.

## Pathway Membership Class Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Learn more about the Christian faith, discipleship, and membership at NPC, and spend time with pastors and church leaders. *Contact Kemet Rakiatu by Jan. 17 to register: [krakiatu@nationalpres.org](mailto:krakiatu@nationalpres.org), 202.537.7578.*

## Parenting Seminar with Mark DeVries

**Saturday, January 27, Stone Hall  
5–6 p.m. (talk), 6–7 p.m. (dinner)**

Mark DeVries’ “Stacking the Stands” seminar will provide parents an opportunity to learn the power of weaving a web of life-giving, intergenerational relationships for their children. *RSVP: [nationalpres.org/parents](http://nationalpres.org/parents)*



# 2018 AT NATIONAL

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Sundays at National are full of inspirational preaching and joyful traditional and contemporary music, Christian education classes for all ages and stages, and time to connect with one another. There are many ways we gather to deepen our relationship with Christ.

*A sampling of events and programming for the upcoming year:*

## Sunday Classes for Adults, Youth, and Children

Bible-based opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages and stages.

## New Sermon Series: Roots of the Church

Beginning January 7, Dr. Renwick will lead us in an exploration of the Book of Acts, detailing the life of the first Christians.

## Concert Series

Music at National presents many performances featuring groups such as Washington Bach Consort and The City Choir of Washington, as well as our own Chancel and Festival choirs.

## 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.

## Club 45

4th and 5th-grade students gather together monthly to build relationships and connect with God through Scripture, service, and fun!

## Summer Trips

High School and middle school students each travel to conferences with speakers, worship, and plenty of fun. An intergenerational mission trip travels to the Dominican Republic to serve alongside churches and orphanages.

## Care and Support

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

## Small Groups

Groups gather throughout the week for Bible study, book discussion, prayer, support, and time with each other.

## Great Day of Service and 50 Hour Challenge

A day of service with family-friendly, hands-on service projects here at NPC and in the surrounding community as part of our “50 Hour Challenge,” encouraging everyone in the congregation serve 50 hours this year.

## Youth

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

*Learn more at [www.nationalpres.org](http://www.nationalpres.org)*

# WELCOME TO NATIONAL!

*We are so glad you are here today.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

December 31–January 7

### Sunday

Psalms 98; 96  
1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28  
Colossians 1:9-20  
Luke 2:22-40

### Monday

Psalms 98; 8  
Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12  
Matthew 1:18-25

### Tuesday

Psalms 48; 29  
1 Kings 19:1-8  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:1-14

### Wednesday

Psalms 111; 15  
1 Kings 19:9-18  
Ephesians 4:17-32  
John 6:15-27

### Thursday

Psalms 20; 97  
Joshua 3:14-4:7  
Ephesians 5:1-20  
John 9:1-12, 35-38

### Friday

Psalms 99; 110  
Jonah 2:2-9  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 11:17-27, 38-44

### Saturday

Psalms 72; 67  
Isaiah 49:1-7  
Revelation 21:22-27  
Matthew 12:14-21

### Sunday

Psalms 104; 29  
Genesis 1:1-2:3  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:29-34

**If you are with us for the first time, welcome!** Our prayer is that you will find a spiritual home here – a home where the love and presence of Jesus Christ are experienced as we gather in community to worship God.

**Connections Ambassadors, wearing blue badges, are here to welcome you** and answer any questions. Come downstairs to Stone Hall after worship to meet others and enjoy coffee and cookies.

**Welcome packets and information** | Available at the information table to the right as you exit the sanctuary.

**Childcare** | Childcare for children through age 4 is available from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Young Worshipers** | Pick up a "Worshiper in Training" bag outside the Sanctuary for fun things to help children engage in worship. Please return the bags after the service.

**Prayers after worship** | A pastor, elder or deacon, and Stephen Minister will be available to pray with you about your concerns and celebrations.

**Accessible worship** | Assisted listening receivers and large print bulletins and hymnals are available at the information table to the right as you exit the sanctuary.

**Pick up a bud vase** | Available outside of Elson Parlor to take with you if you are planning to visit someone who is ill or home-bound.

*In order to share God's word with the world, our services are video recorded and broadcast online. If you do not wish to appear on camera, seating is available in the balcony and back six pews of the sanctuary.*

## PRAYERS

*We pray for:*

Members and friends of National Presbyterian Church

*We pray for our mission interests, including:*

The persecuted church, consisting of millions of Christians across the world who are denied their rights, imprisoned, tortured, or martyred for their faith. *Mission prayer calendars are available in the information racks.*

*How can we pray for you? [nationalpres.org/prayer](http://nationalpres.org/prayer)*



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