

December 11, 2022
Third Sunday in Advent

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.*

Psalm 47:1-2

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)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Tonight, December 11, 5:00 pm

The joyous Advent tradition returns! Tonight at 5:00 pm, the National Presbyterian Church Festival Choir and Orchestra will fill our Sanctuary with the glorious sounds of Handel's *Messiah*, including the resounding "Hallelujah Chorus," in this inspiring and powerful presentation of the greatest story ever told. All are invited! No tickets required. Free-will offering. Can't attend in person? Please join us on our [Watch page](#) to view online.

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Today in Stone Hall

All are welcome for fellowship, treats, and generosity to support God's work throughout the world. Give in person today or December 18. Or please [click here](#) to select missionaries/organizations to receive your donations. You can give online now through December 31. Please [sign up](#) here to help serve.

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree

Please bring your Angel Tree gifts to Stone Hall and put them under the Christmas tree. Volunteers will sort them by family and pack big bags for delivery next week. Would you like to help with delivery? We need you! Contact Susan O'Banion at sobanion@nationalpres.org to sign up, and pick up a big bag in Stone Hall next Sunday to deliver before Christmas.

Advent Devotional:

View Online or Download

You're invited to an Advent pilgrimage to the manger! We are excited to offer you an Advent devotional guide entitled *The Promised One*. Please [click here](#) or visit our home page to view online or download the devotional. Together, we'll engage in a visual and spiritual feast that includes daily readings from Scripture, a brief meditation, and a couple of short questions for reflection. Let's pray that when that Birthday arrives, we will find ourselves expectant, eager, and joyful at his coming.

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 11

- Mission Gifts for Christmas in Stone Fellowship Hall
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm: Handel's Messiah Concert
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Friday, December 16

- 7:00 pm: Club 45

Sunday, December 18

- Mission Gifts for Christmas in Stone Fellowship Hall
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship with Lessons & Carols
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship with Lessons & Carols
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group Christmas party

NPC College Christmas Party

December 21, 6:30 pm

College students: you are invited to join your NPC friends for a white elephant gift exchange! For details, including location, contact Kristin at kfranke@nationalpres.org.

8:45 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

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, keyboard

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ OPENING SONG God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.

Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day.

To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Chorus: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and...joy!*

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came.

And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same.

How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. **Chorus**

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place

and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace

this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface. **Chorus** comfort and joy! (3x)

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE The Wormmeester Family

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and...joy!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, we bow in worship before you,

grateful for the forgiveness you offer to us through Christ Jesus.

In our daily lives, keep us seeking after you, and closely following you.

Sometimes in disobedience or fear we hide the good news of Jesus' birth.

Sometimes our confidence grows weak, and our light fails to shine.

Come to us, we pray, in mercy and compassion.

When you come, may we not be found hiding the treasure you have entrusted to us,

nor asleep with your light grown dim, but confidently waiting and serving you:

Our Lord and glorious King.

from Richard Baxter

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

Nettleton

Glory be to God the Father, glory also to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit,

Ever Three and ever One;

As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be;

Alleluia and thanksgiving, now and through eternity.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

An Advent 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. Fox

*Children ages 5 to 5th grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:29-36

Deacon Gregg Gochnour

²⁹Peter said, "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' ³²"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'" ³⁶"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

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

SERMON

Rev. Allan Poole

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

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

OFFERING SONG

Advent Hymn

Christy Nockels

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the everlasting light;
Son of righteousness arise and triumph o'er these chains of mine.
Come, thou long awaited One, in the fullness of your love.

And loose this heart bound up by shame, and I will never be the same.

Chorus: *So, here I've waited hope of you. All my soul's longing through and through.
Dayspring from on high be near, and Daystar in my heart appear.*

Dark and cheerless is the morn, until your love in me is born.

And joyless is the evening song, until Emmanuel has come. **Chorus**

- ▲ DOXOLOGY *Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.* *Lasst uns erfreuen*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Larsen

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.

- ▲ CLOSING SONG How Many Kings Jason Germain

Follow the star to a place unexpected,
Would you believe, after all we've projected, a child in a manger?
Lowly and small, the weakest of all,
Unlikeliest hero, wrapped in his mother's shawl — just a child —
Is this who we've waited for?

Chorus 1: *How many kings step down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me?
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?*

Bringing our gifts for the newborn Savior.
All that we have, whether costly or meek because we believe.
Gold for his honor and frankincense for his pleasure
And myrrh for the cross he will suffer
Do you believe? Is this who we've waited for?

Chorus 2: *How many kings step down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least...
How many kings step down from their thrones?
How many lords have abandoned their homes?
How many greats have become the least for me.
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me?*

- ▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Poole

- ▲ SENDING NPC Band

- ▲ Congregation standing, as able

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.
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WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Pifa
Messiah

G. F. Handel
Todd Fickley, Organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ HYMN 5 *verses 1-3*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Crumpler Family

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Picardy

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, we bow in worship before you,
grateful for the forgiveness you offer to us through Christ Jesus.
In our daily lives, keep us seeking after you, and closely following you.
Sometimes in disobedience or fear we hide the good news of Jesus' birth.
Sometimes our confidence grows weak, and our light fails to shine.
Come to us, we pray, in mercy and compassion.
When you come, may we not be found hiding the treasure you have entrusted to us,
nor asleep with your light grown dim, but confidently waiting and serving you:
Our Lord and glorious King. from Richard Baxter

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

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. Fox

*Children ages 5 to 5th grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:29-36

Elder Serge Duss

²⁹Peter said, "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' ³²"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'" ³⁶"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

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

SERMON

Rev. Allan Poole

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE

Conditor alme siderum

When this old world drew on toward night, Christ came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, virgin mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:

All things on earth with one accord, like those in heav'n shall call your Lord. Amen.

Sarum plainsong Latin hymn, 9th century

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

OFFERTORY Christ Is the Morning Star John Rutter

Christ is the morning star, the light of God that shines from afar;
 The Son of God in human form revealed, the wound of Adam's sin forever healed.
 For God, who formed mankind of clay did bring forth our salvation that day
 When he, who made all things since time began, did send his Son, to live on earth as man.
 And when he came, a child on earth, the sun and stars did shine at his birth,
 Light of the world that long in darkness lay; pure light of God, the gift of Christmas Day.
Christ is the morning star. Christ is the morning star. Christ is the morning star.
 And when he comes again as King, then heav'n and all creation shall sing;
 With saints in glory seated round his throne, we'll see his face, and know as we are known.
Christ is the morning star. Christ is the morning star. Christ is the morning star.

- ▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY *Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.* Regent Square
 Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
 Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;
 One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Larsen

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 17 "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us *Wachet auf*

- ▲ BENEDICTION Rev. Poole

- ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE
Christ is the morning star. Christ is the morning star. Christ is the morning star.

- ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Larsen

- ▲ POSTLUDE Fugue on the Magnificat J. S. Bach
 Todd Fickley, Organ

- ▲ Congregation standing, as able

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT NATIONAL

Celebrate Christmas with National! For more information about your many wonderful opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Savior with NPC, please [click here](#) or visit nationalpres.org/Christmas. All of our worship services are both in-person in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch page](#).



What Child Is This? Welcoming Jesus as Prophet, Priest and King

Advent is the season in the Christian year when we are especially attentive to the meaning of the Incarnation, understood through an encounter with the One who fulfilled the roles first revealed in our Old Testament of prophet, priest, and king. It is also a season in which we attend to our own preparedness to receive him as Lord. Worship with us at 8:45 and 11:00 am on the Sundays before Christmas, including a service of lessons and carols on December 18 at both services.

Christmas Flowers

Would you like to honor or remember a loved one by supporting NPC's Christmas flower displays? You will find Flower Ministry envelopes on the tables outside the sanctuary. You may make a donation of any size to NPC by check, noting Christmas Flowers on the memo line, and submit it in the offering plate or mail it to the NPC Finance office. A list of dedications will appear in the bulletin shortly after Christmas.

2022 NPC Christmas Ornaments Available by Mail

If you can't make it to church in person and would still like a 2022 NPC Christmas ornament, please [click here](#) or contact Leslie Saum at lsaum@nationalpres.org and we will be happy to mail one to you, as long as supplies last.

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm: Family Nativity Service

Our children, youth and adults will bring to life the nativity story with song and scripture. This is a family-friendly service that your kids will love!

8:00 & 10:00 pm

Traditional Candlelight Services

The message, prayers and beautiful music of these traditional Christmas Eve services will inspire you and fill you with hope.

Sundays, December 25 & January 1

We will have a single worship service at 11:00 am both Sundays. Childcare will be provided for ages up to 4 years. Our regular worship schedule and Sunday School for all ages will resume on January 8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Opportunities with National Presbyterian Church

- 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.

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.

Thank You from the Renwicks

Recently retired senior pastor Dr. Renwick and his wife Currie are doing well, and send their thanks to the NPC family for a wonderful send off. [Click here](#) to read a letter from them with their thanks, updates, and some great photos.


National Presbyterian School

NPS gives special consideration to applications from NPC families for Pre-K-3 through Sixth Grade. Choose from weekly events offered to explore our school.

Application deadline is January 13. For more information visit www.nps-dc.org or contact Admissions Director Katy Harvey, kharvey@nps-dc.org or 202.537.7508.

DECEMBER GIVING - FINISH THE YEAR STRONG!

Your financial generosity will help National to 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. 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.

Report of Faith Giving Through December 5, 2022

Year-to-Date Giving	\$2,234,000
Annual Budget	\$3,192,000
Shortfall	(\$838,000)

SUNDAYS AT NATIONAL

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

Adult Sunday School Classes

Please [click here](#) or visit our [Adults Classes page](#) online to read the full description and for the online link.

Class Title	Teacher(s)/Facilitator(s)	Location
<i>Hebrews—Looking to Jesus; Going On To Maturity</i>	R.V. Seep	Chapel, In-person and online available
<i>Talking about Race: Gospel Hope for Hard Conversations</i>	Peggy Lewis, Nancy Fox, Lewrene Glaser	Room #209
<i>Matthew: The Promised Messiah Has Come</i>	Donna Duss, Margaret Gardner and others	Garden Room C
<i>Parent Gathering</i>	Kristin Franke and others	Jones Hall in the Education Building

Youth Sunday School

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

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).

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)

Friday, December 16 at 7pm

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 or check our [Events page](#) for more information and meeting dates.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18 at 6:30 pm

All youth are invited to a Christmas party! Please bring a white elephant gift (under \$10, no gift cards please). Wear your best Christmas sweater!

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 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 pray for:

Artists and Musicians.

We pray for:

Central Union Mission, as they serve the homeless and vulnerable in DC.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the NPC Care Office,

llarsen@nationalpres.org

202.537.7537

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
- 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 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.

Today's Flowers

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



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



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