

December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve

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**

*While they were there,
the time came for her to deliver her child.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Luke 2:6-7

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

Music

Ministry Directors

Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)
Jill Meek (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 tomorrow, December 25
and Sunday, January 1, 2023

11:00 am in the Sanctuary

You are welcome every Sunday!

Full schedule resumes on January 8, 2023 with
8:45 & 11:00 am: worship in the Sanctuary and online
9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages



WORSHIP

8:00 AND 10:00 PM

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.*

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Christmas Intrada David Conte
Todd Fickley, organ

CHRISTMAS CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste fideles*
Latin Carol
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! **Refrain**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE 8:00: Jamie and Kathleen Cantrell
10:00: The Piho Family

CHORAL RESPONSE Now Is Born Roger Wagner
Il est né
Now is born the divine Christ Child. Play the musette, play the tuneful oboe!
Now is born the divine Christ Child. Let all sing and rejoice this day!
Ages long since are past and gone when the prophets foretold his coming.
Ages long since are past and gone. Noël! Noël! then let us sing!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

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 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!

▲ A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20

8:00: Elder Dick Pera

10:00: Holly Novak

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the

highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours! ¹⁵When 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.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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

Rev. Allan Poole

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE Glory to God G. B. Pergolesi
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men! Luke 2:14

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY O Holy Night Adolphe Adam
O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
*Minuit, Chrétien, c'est l'heure solennelle où L'Homme-Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous,
Pour effacer la tache originelle et de son Père arrêter le courroux.
Le monde entire tresaille d'espérance, a cette nuit qui lui donne Sauveur.
Peuple, à genoux! Attends ta deliverance! Noël! Noël! Voici le Rédempteur!*
Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love, and is gospel is peace.
By his true light are we offered salvation, and in his name all oppressed find release.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raising, let all within us praise God's holy name.
Christ is the Lord: Then ever, ever praise him. His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
Sheri Jackson and Tess Ottinger, sopranos

EVENING 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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

*We invite everyone to join in lighting Christmas candles.
Members of the choir will assist the congregation in lighting.
Please light the candle of the person closest to you,
sharing the candlelight along the entire pew.
Holding the lighted candle upright will keep it from dripping.
At the conclusion of the final hymn, upon signal from the minister,
please extinguish all candles.*

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!

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

Rev. Poole

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Stille Nacht"

Todd Fickley

▲ Congregation standing as able

*The flowers throughout the church are given to the glory and praise of God
 by the members and friends of National Presbyterian Church,
 rejoicing in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.*

All are invited for Christmas cookies in Stone Fellowship Hall following the **8:00 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

2023 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 8

Know and grow in God's Word through weekly Sunday School opportunities for all.

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 warm and welcoming small groups gather throughout the week in person and online for Bible study, book discussion, prayer, support, and time together.

Large Groups

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

Young Adults

We have a growing young adults group that meets regularly for fellowship and faith discussions.

Club 45

Club 45 (fourth and fifth graders) meets regularly to grow in faith and friendship through games and devotionals.

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 June 26-30 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 attend Fun in the Son youth conference in Hilton Head, SC, and middle school students will attend camp together in northeast Maryland.

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 2022 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 25 and January 1. Classes resume January 8th with a new January-term line-up of adult classes. Please visit our [Adult Classes page](#) online for the class list.

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!

Prayers

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

This week, we especially pray for:

Those serving in the military or foreign service, and for all those feeling separation or loss during the holiday season.

How can we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to Wray Muoio in the Care Office,
wmuoio@nationalpres.org
202.537.7540.

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 or 202.537.7578.

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](#).

Need a Bible?

We have free gift Bibles in the narthex for you or anyone who does not have a Bible of their own. Please pick one up today as our gift to you!



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW
WASHINGTON DC 20016
202.537.0800
www.nationalpres.org