

December 7, 2022
Advent Vespers Communion



Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*But if we hope for what we do not see,
we wait for it with patience.*
Romans 8:25

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)

7:00 PM 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.

ADVENT VESPERS COMMUNION

PRELUDE "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us J. S. Bach
Todd Fickley, Organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Allan Poole

One: The Spirit and the Church cry out,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

All who await his appearance pray,

Come, Lord Jesus.

The whole Church prays,

Come, Lord Jesus.

▲ HYMN 1 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus *Stuttgart*

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Rev. Donna Marsh

O God of the ages and ages to come,

make us watchful as we await the coming of your Son our Savior.

When he comes, may he not find us sleeping in sin,

but awake, and rejoicing in his praises.

Bring to light things hidden in darkness, even the shadows of our hearts.

Forgive our sins, we pray. Then cleanse and renew us, that we may walk in your light

and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:22-25

Elder Gerri Hall

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

HOMILY

Rev. Poole

▲ HYMN 4 verses 1-3

Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor alme siderum

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Lisa Larsen and Dr. Quinn Fox

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation When God's Time Had Ripened

Alfred J. Fedak

When God's time had ripened, Mary's womb bore fruit,

Scion of the Godhead, sprung from Jesse's root;

So the True Vine branches from the lily's stem,

The Rose without blemish blooms in Bethlehem.

More than mind can fathom, limit or untwine, this mysterious yoking—human and divine;

But what reason fetters faith at length unlocks, and wise hearts discover truth in paradox.

As the Bread of Heaven, that we might be fed, chose a manger cradle in the House of Bread,

So has life eternal mingled in the womb with our mortal nature to confound the tomb.

For the swaddled infant in a humble place holds our hope of glory and our means of grace;

In the love enfleshed here dawns the world's rebirth, promise of salvation,

pledge of peace on earth.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Prayer of Response 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 13

Prepare the Way

Bereden väg för Herran

▲ BENEDICTION

Rev. Poole

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

Meditation on "Conditor alme siderum"

Rebecca Groom te Velde
Todd Fickley, Organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

An offering will be received at the doors as you exit.

ADVENT

For all the information about the many wonderful opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Savior with NPC, please [click here](#) or visit nationalpres.org/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.

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 11, 5:00 pm

The National Presbyterian Church Festival Choir and Orchestra presents *King of Kings and Lord of Lords: Our Coming Savior in Handel's Messiah* in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch page](#). All are welcome, and no tickets are necessary!

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

Worship with us at 8:45 and 11:00 am on Sundays, December 4, 11 and 18 as we hear about the special offices of our Savior, Jesus, in-person in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch page](#). On December 18, our 11:00 am service will be filled with special choral and instrumental music of the season as we prepare to receive the one born of man, the king of kings!

Mission Gifts for Christmas Sundays, December 11 & 18 in Stone Fellowship Hall

Mission Gifts for Christmas enables you to give meaningful gifts by supporting God's work locally and internationally. 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.

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. A list of dedications will appear in the bulletin shortly after Christmas.

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.



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