

Choir

“This child must be born that the kingdom might come; salvation for many, destruction for some;
Both end and beginning, both message and sign; both victor and victim, both yours and divine.”

Congregation

No payment was promised, no promises made;
no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
replied with conviction, “Tell God I say ‘Yes’.”

Text by John L. Bell
set to an Irish melody

Rev. Donna Marsh
and Dr. Joyce Emery

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation The Hands That First Held Mary’s Child

Dan Forrest
Thomas Troeger

The hands that first held Mary’s child were hard from working wood.
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant’s name,
The angel’s words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven’s height,
and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

“This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone.”
The tiny form in Joseph’s palms confirmed what he had heard,
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven’s human Word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God’s gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who’s born today,
but charged with faith may we behold to follow in his way.

with Danielle Cho, cello

Prayer of Response and The Lord’s Prayer

▲ CAROL 44 verses 1 & 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

▲ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rejoice!

Jay Rouse

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



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December 5, 2018

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

ADVENT VESPERS

*All the crowds were amazed and said,
"Can this be the **Son of David?**"*
Matthew 12:23

*The crowds that went ahead of him
and that followed were shouting,
"Hosanna to the **Son of David!**"*
Matthew 21:9

Senior Pastor Dr. David Renwick
Associate Pastors Dr. Quinn Fox, Rev. Donna Marsh, Dr. Joyce Emery
Parish Associate Dr. Nancy Fox
Music Dr. Michael Denham (*Director*), Todd Fickley (*Organist*)
Joanna Jones (*Contemporary Music Leader*)
Ministry Directors J. Theodore Anderson (*Library, Archives, & Older Adults*)
Kristin Franke (*Youth*), Cate McCrory (*Children*)
Leslie Saum (*Connections*), John Marienau Turpin (*Serve*)

VESPERS IN ADVENT

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER AND MEDITATION

PRELUDE Impressions on Two Advent Hymns M. Sherrill Kelsey
Todd Fickley, piano

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP *read responsively* Dr. Quinn Fox

One The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

All For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

All He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

▲ SONG (Hymn 1) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

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*

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!
Call us one and calls us all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

SCRIPTURE Psalm 132:11; Jeremiah 33:14-15; Ezekiel 34:23

MEDITATION The Son of David—Leadership Needed and Promised Dr. David Renwick

SONG O Come, O Come Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory over the grave. *Refrain*

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of Nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind;
 Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

SCRIPTURE	Luke 3:21-4:3	NPC Pastors
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MEDITATION The Son of David—Human and Divine Dr. David Renwick

ANTHEM Not the Powerful, Not the Privileged *Pedigree*

Not the powerful, not the privileged, not the famous in the land,
But the no-ones and the needy were the first to hold God's hand
Not a well-established family with an heirloom christening shawl,
But a homeless, wandering couple parented the Lord of all.
God determined to be different from the standards we think best,
In his choice of friends and family, lets forgotten folk be blessed.
Not obsessed by our achievements, worldly wealth or family tree,
May we, in and with God's chosen, find our fondest pedigree.

Pedigree

John. L. Bell

SCRIPTURE Matthew 9:27-30a; 15:21-28

MEDITATION The Son of David—Caring for Us and Them Dr. David Renwick

SONG He Became Poor He Became Poor

Choir twice then congregation twice

He became poor that we may be rich,
 loving the world and leaving his throne;
 King of all kings and Lord of all lords,
 flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone.

Text and music John L. Bell

SCRIPTURE Matthew 21:5, 9

MEDITATION The Son of David—Our Leader and King? Dr. David Renwick

SONG *choir and congregation* No Wind at the Window *Columcille*

Choir

No wind at the window, no knock at the door; no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
No dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear; just an angel and a woman, and a voice in her ear.

Soloist

“O Mary, O Mary, don’t hide from my face. Be glad that you’re favored and filled with God’s grace. The time for redeeming the world has begun, and you have been chosen to mother God’s Son.”