

December 18, 2016

Welcome to the NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.
Galatians 5:22

We love because God first loved us.
1 John 4:19

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 Gore (<i>Contemporary Music Leader</i>)
Ministry Directors	J. Theodore Anderson (<i>Library, Archives, & Older Adults</i>) Kristin Franke (<i>Youth</i>), Jill Meek (<i>Children</i>) Leslie Saum (<i>Connections</i>), John Turpin (<i>Serve</i>)



TODAY AT NATIONAL

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Stone Hall

Your Christmas giving can make a difference! Come down to Mission Gifts for Christmas after worship to give to charities in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker. Representatives are available for you to learn about the organizations and how your gift helps. *Pick up at catalog in Stone Hall, or shop online through Dec. 31: nationalpres.org/mission-gifts*

Fruitcake Sales

Outside Stone Hall bookstore

The Business and Professional Women's Guild is selling fruitcakes. *Proceeds will benefit B&P missions.*

Moldova Prayer

12:30 p.m., Church Room 107

All are invited for a time of prayer for our NPC Moldova mission partners.

Today's Instrumentalists

Harp	Eric Sabatino
Strings	Regino Madrid Derek Powell Tiffany Richardson Danielle Cho
Brass	Woodrow English Terry Bingham Gus Mitchell Rick Lee Jack Tilbury
Percussion	Adam Green

Music at National

4:30 p.m., Sanctuary

The City Choir of Washington presents "The Holly and the Ivy: Music for Christmas."

Christmas Decorations

The Creche by the Chapel entrance contains hand sculpted figures from Spain. The ornaments on the Chrismon tree represent symbols of Christ and the Christian life. *Pick up a brochure in the Court of Flags to learn more!*

WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

Sunday School

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Adults

January Term classes for adults begin January 8

- Abiding in Jesus, *Church Bldg Rm 105*
- Men's Bible Class, *Admin Bldg Culbertson Library*
- The History of the Church in the Middle Ages, *Church Building Room 110/111*
- Parents' Gathering
10–10:30 a.m., Elson Parlor

Youth

- Middle School (6th & 7th grade)
Multipurpose Bldg. Room 101
- Middle School (8th grade)
Agencies Bldg. Room 101
- High School (9th –12th grade)
Youth House

Children

- Age 2–5th grade: Drop off/pick up at the National Presbyterian School building.

Children's Choirs (K–5th grade)

Sundays, 10:25–10:55 a.m., School Bldg

Youth Choir (6–12th grade)

Sundays, 10:20–10:50 a.m. Church Bldg, Rm 5

December Donations: Cereal

Please bring donations of **unsweetened cereal** for mission partner Martha's Table to the baskets outside of Stone Hall, or upstairs at the info table.

Notes of Greeting and Encouragement

Write postcards to NPC members and friends who are in need of encouragement. *Supplies are available in Stone Hall.*

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God on this fourth Sunday in Advent as we await the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Advent flower dedications beautify our church while honoring a loved one. Donations by check may be made payable to "NPC Flower Fund."

9 A.M. WORSHIP

Sanctuary

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE How Brightly Shines the Morning Star J.S. Bach

William Neil, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

We praise you, O Lord, as we remember the coming of your Son our Savior. We marvel that you have revealed yourself in his Incarnation. Your thoughts are beyond our most daring imaginations, yet you have spoken simply and surprisingly for yourself through the humble birth of a child in Bethlehem. You have bent low to rescue us from the dark and empty ways we have wandered. Forgive us our sins and hold us fast, gracious God, as we behold your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Gloria

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo!

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Mignon & Michael Pierce
with McKyle Pierce

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Advent Affirmation *see p. 6*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Sing We Now of Christmas

Fred Prentice

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel! Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell.
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel!
Angels from on high say, "Shepherds, come and see! He is born in Bethlehem, a blessed Lamb for thee."
Shepherds found the child lying in a manger stall. Joseph standing by, and mother Mary mild.
Magi oriental journeyed from afar. They did come to greet him 'neath the shining star.
Glory to God, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel!

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY *see p. 6*

Regent Square

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *see p. 6*

Rev. Evangeline Taylor

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-16

Deacon Susan Julius

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

SERMON

Love
1 John 4:7-21

Dr. David Renwick

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

▲ HYMN 56 *verses 1-4* The First Nowell

The First Nowell

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE Good King Wenceslas

arr. by David Willcocks

Jones Hall (School Gym)

▲ WELCOME SONGS	O Breath of Life	Andy Piercy
	No Other Name	Joel Houston

Dr. Quinn Fox

Hilda Gore

John Mason Neale

Ann Sun & Mark Angehr
with Lake and Beatrice Angehr-Sun

John Mason Neale

We praise you, O Lord, as we remember the coming of your Son our Savior. We marvel that you have revealed yourself in his Incarnation. Your thoughts are beyond our most daring imaginations, yet you have spoken simply and surprisingly for yourself through the humble birth of a child in Bethlehem. You have bent low to rescue us from the dark and empty ways we have wandered. Forgive us our sins and hold us fast, gracious God, as we behold your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

God Rest Ye Merry *chorus only*

SERMON	Candle Crèche and Carols	Dr. Quinn Fox
Joseph and Mary Journey to Bethlehem		Hymn 25 Away in A Manger
Angels and Shepherds Visit the Manger		Hymn 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Wise Men Follow the Star		A Baby Has Come

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Advent Affirmation Dr. Nancy Fox

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 one day he will return to rule in righteousness, to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

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.

John W. Work Jr.

Dr. Nancy Fox

Great Light of the World

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

11 A.M. WORSHIP

Sanctuary

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

J.S. Bach

William Neil, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Melinda & David Moore
with Molly and David Moore

CHORAL RESPONSE

Sing We Now of Christmas

Fred Prentice

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel! Of our Lord and Savior we the tidings tell.

French Carol

Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel!

Angels from on high say, "Shepherds, come and see! He is born in Bethlehem, a blessed Lamb for thee."

Shepherds found the child lying in a manger stall Joseph standing by, and mother Mary mild.

Magi oriental journeyed from afar. They did come to greet him 'neath the shining star.

Glory to God, for Christ the King is born. Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

We praise you, O Lord, as we remember the coming of your Son our Savior.

We marvel that you have revealed yourself in his Incarnation.

Your thoughts are beyond our most daring imaginations,
yet you have spoken simply and surprisingly for yourself
through the humble birth of a child in Bethlehem.

You have bent low to rescue us from the dark and empty ways we have wandered.

Forgive us our sins and hold us fast, gracious God,
as we behold your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-16

Deacon Carol Cryer

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

All Is Well

Michael W. Smith

All is well, all is well. Angels and men rejoice! For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.

Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!

All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth. Christ is come, go and tell that he is in the manger.

Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!

All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing. Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.

Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!

with Michael Ford

WE LEAVE TO SERVE IN GOD'S WORLD

CHORAL RESPONSE **Love Came Down at Christmas** Carson Cooman
Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.
Star and angels, star and angels, star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?
Star and angels, star and angels, star and angels gave the sign.
Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine, love to God and to all the world, love for plea and gift and sign.
Star and angels, star and angels, star and angels gave the sign.
Star and angels, star and angels, Love came down at Christmastime. Christina Rossetti

▲ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **An Advent Affirmation** Rev. Evangeline Taylor
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 one day he will return to rule in righteousness,
to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

PASTORAL 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.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

See, Amid the Winter's Snow Dan Forrest
See amidst the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn, sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Alleluia
Lo, within a manger lies he who built the lofty skies, he, who throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.
Alleluia
Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.
Alleluia Edward Caswall

▲ **ADVENT DOXOLOGY** *Regent Square*
Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One:
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

▲ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

▲ **HYMN 56** *verses 1-4* The First Nowell *The First Nowell*

▲ **BENEDICTION**

▲ **CHORAL RESPONSE** Born is our Lord and Savior. *Sing Alleluia!* All is well!

▲ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

▲ **POSTLUDE** Good King Wenceslas arr. by David Willcocks

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve

FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE | 5 PM

Kids, teens, and adults bring the Bible's nativity story to life in this narrated reenactment with lots of music. *Childcare will be available.*

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES | 8 PM & 10 PM

Dr. David Renwick will preach at these beautiful candlelight services. Carols will be sung and Communion will be served as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Christmas Day

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE | 11 AM

Dr. Renwick shares the Christmas story.

New Year's Day

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE | 11 AM

Rev. Marsh will preach.

Invite a friend!

Your Gifts Make a Difference!

- 8 NPC families enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner through the NPC Deacon's Assistance Fund.
- 14 boxes full of high quality winter wear were received for homeless neighbors through Friendship Place
- \$2,795 was contributed for Friendship Place, and 20 boxes of food for the hungry were collected for Martha's Table during Thanksgiving day worship.

Thanks to all who prayed, donated, delivered, and collected!

Christmas Support

Do you know of an NPC family in need of a complete Christmas dinner? *Contact Liz Martin at 202.537.7540 or LMartin@NationalPres.org for ways we can help.*

Say "Yes" to Living Generously *Make your 2017 commitment today!*

Your commitment enables our church to plan wisely for the year ahead.

You may make your commitment by:

- Placing your commitment card (available in the Friendship Registers) in the offering plate
- Filling out your commitment online at www.nationalpres.org/giving

"January Term" Classes for Adults

Sundays, January 8–29, 9:30 a.m.

A variety of three week courses will take place in January, with a closing plenary session on Jan. 29 with Dr. Beck Taylor, President of Whitworth University, who will help us to think about the challenges facing Christian higher education.

Refugee Family Project

Save the date: Saturday, Jan. 14, 2–4 p.m.

Want to help with the new refugee family resettling in the DC area next year? Lutheran Social Services, our agency partner, will be hosting a training seminar.

Pathway Membership Class

Saturday, Jan. 21, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Learn more about the Christian faith and membership at NPC, and spend time with pastors and church leaders at the Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class. *Contact Kemet Rakiatu by Jan. 13 to register: KRakiatu@NationalPres.org, 202.537.7578.*

Prepare for Marriage Seminar

Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:45 a.m.–3 p.m.

This class is offered once per year and is required for all couples whose weddings will be held at NPC. *Contact Holly Novak by Jan. 30 to register: HNovak@NationalPres.org; 202.537.7527.*

Mission Prayer Calendars

Pray for NPC's partners using our 31-day prayer calendar. *Brochures are available at the information racks.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Year 2

December 18 – 25

Sunday

Psalms 24; 110
Isaiah 11:1-9
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 3:16-21

Monday

Psalms 122; 67
Isaiah 11:10-16
Revelation 20:1-10
John 5:30-47

Tuesday

Psalms 33; 94
Isaiah 28:9-22
Revelation 20:11-21:8
Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday

Psalms 50; 17
Isaiah 29:9-24
Revelation 21:9-21
Luke 1:26-38

Thursday

Psalms 18:1-20; 62
Isaiah 31:1-9
Revelation 21:22-22:5
Luke 1:39-56

Friday

Psalms 102; 16
Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20
Luke 1:57-66

Saturday

Psalms 90; 72
Isaiah 35:1-10
Revelation 22:12-17, 21
Luke 1:67-80

Sunday

Psalms 2; 96
Zechariah 2:10-13
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-36

SHARE IN THE JOY OF FAITHFUL GIVING!

Help NPC fulfill its mission in 2016 and 2017

This year the Session challenged the congregation to increase mission giving, catch up on facility repairs, and provide a cost of living increase for the staff for the first time in several years. With your support we have been accomplishing these goals. ***Your prayerful financial support in December is vital to complete the year well.*** Please consider a generous gift to Christ's ministry in and through National.

How to Give

- **Recurring gifts** can be set up at NPC Online (*link at the bottom of nationalpres.org*)
- **Easy one-time gifts** can be made at nationalpres.org/giving
- **Stock donations.** Ask your broker to identify you as the donor and to deliver stock information to Morgan Stanley Smith Barney:
DTC Clearing Number: 0015
Client Account number: 504-041937-677
NPC TIN: 53-0196611
Client Name: The National Presbyterian Church, Inc.
- Shop on **Amazon Smile** (www.smile.amazon.com), using "The National Presbyterian Church, Inc." as your designated charity and NPC receives a donation of .05% of the price of your eligible purchases.

Financial Report through December 7, 2016

	ANNUAL BUDGET	GIVING TO DATE	NEEDED IN DECEMBER
Individual Faith Giving	\$2,900,000	\$2,225,321	\$674,679

Thank you for your prayerful and generous support!
Questions? Contact Business Manager, Leah Skrine,
LSkrine@NationalPres.org, 202.537.7484.

PRAYERS

We celebrate the birth of:
Luca Robert Montanari on November 20, 2016
to parents David and Eunjin Montanari

We mourn the deaths of:
Sen. John Glenn on December 8, 2016
Herb Kaplan on December 8, 2016
Amy C. Lee on December 12, 2016

Prayer requests: nationalpres.org/prayer



NATIONAL
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