

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*As it is written in the book of the words of the
prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the
wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his
paths straight.'*

Luke 3:4



Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Parish Associates

Music

Ministry Directors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Dr. Quinn Fox
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Dr. Nancy Fox
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)
Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)
Jill Meek (Children)
Leslie Saum (Connections)

EVENTS AT NATIONAL

For more information about all our events, please visit the [Events page](#) on our website at nationalpres.org. Questions? Email us at info@nationalpres.org!

Handel's Messiah Today at 5:00 pm

The National Presbyterian Church Festival Choir and Orchestra presents *Prepare Him Room: Our Coming Savior* in Handel's *Messiah* in the Sanctuary and online on our Watch page at 5:00 pm, today, December 10. All are welcome, and no tickets are necessary!

Mission Gifts for Christmas Today and December 17

Stone Fellowship Hall Shop online December 1-31

Mission Gifts for Christmas enables you to give meaningful gifts instead of giving another "thing," by supporting God's work locally and internationally. Choose your gifts in person today and December 17. Or you can choose gifts online and sign up to serve at nationalpres.org/mission-gifts.

Adult Fellowship Cookies & Carols Wednesday, December 13, 2:00 pm

In the Garden Rooms

Celebrate the joy of the season at our Adult Fellowship Cookies & Carols! Join us for delightful treats, warm fellowship and inspirational Christmas carols. Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus will provide a meditation. Questions? Contact Wray Muoio at wmuoio@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7540.

Club 45 (4th & 5th graders) Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 pm

Calling all 4th & 5th graders! Come grow in faith and friendship through fun and games and exploring God's word. For more information contact jmeek@nationalpres.org.

DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

All services will be offered both in-person and online on our Watch page. Childcare for ages up to 4 years will be provided for the 10:00 am, 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm services.

10:00 am: 4th Sunday of Advent Service*

Worship with a special and spectacular musical celebration including Daniel Pinkham's brilliant *Christmas Cantata* for choir, brass, and organ!

5:00 pm: Family Nativity Service*

Our children, youth and adults will bring the nativity story to life 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.

* A complimentary photographer will be on hand in Stone Fellowship Hall to capture your family memories in front of our beautiful Christmas backdrop and decor before and after these services!

Sunday, New Year's Eve, December 31

We will have a single worship service at 10:00 am on New Year's Eve. Childcare will be provided for ages up to 4 years. Our regular 8:45 and 11:00 am worship schedule and Sunday School for all ages will resume on January 7, 2024.

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

Improvisations

Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ OPENING SONG

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Traditional

Lo how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,

Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.

It came a blossom bright amid the cold of winter

When half-spent was the night

Isaiah 'twas foretold it the Rose I have in mind.

With Mary we behold it the Virgin Mother kind

To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior

When half-spent was the night

O Flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air

Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.

True man yet very God from sin and death now save us

And share our every load

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Whittington Family

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Dr. Fox

With all my soul I long for you, O Lord,

more than watchmen who wait for the morning.

Anticipating your dawn of peace,

your people wait in hope.

You alone are grace and truth. You alone are steadfast love.

Savior God, meet us in our need. Prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son,
who guides us in the ways of peace.

On his merits and for his sake, forgive our sins.

In him alone we see your glory and our salvation.

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 Dr. 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 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE Luke 3:1-6 Deacon Lynne Gochnour
Please see page 7.

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.*

SERMON *Prepare Him Room* Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
 Prepare the Way of the Lord

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

- ▲ OFFERING SONG Light of the World Lauren Daigle
- The world waits for a miracle, the heart longs for a little bit of hope.
 O come, O come Emmanuel.
- A child prays for peace on earth, and she's calling out from a sea of hurt.
 O come, O come, Emmanuel.
- And can you hear the angels singing:
Glory to the Light of the world! Glory; The Light of the world is here.
- The drought breaks with the tears of a mother, a baby's cry is the sound of love come down.
 Come down, Emmanuel.
- He is the song for the suffering.
 He is Messiah. The Prince of Peace has come. He has come, Emmanuel.
- Glory to the light of the world! Glory to the light of the world!
 Glory to the light of the world! Glory to the light of the world!*

For all who wait, for all who hunger, for all who've prayed, for all who wonder,
behold your King, behold Messiah.
Emmanuel Emmanuel!

Glory to the light of the world! Glory to the light of the world!
Glory to the light of the world! Behold your King, behold Messiah!
Emmanuel Emmanuel!

The world waits for a miracle.

The heart longs for a little bit of hope. O come O come Emmanuel!

Elle Schmitt, soprano

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Regent Square

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Stoltzfus

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

We the Song of Emmanuel

Keith Getty

Sing we the song of Emmanuel: This the Christ who was long foretold.
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold.

God Most High in a manger laid! Lift your voices and now proclaim:
Great and glorious Love has come to us. Join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel King who came with no crown or throne.
Helpless he lay the Invincible: Maker of Mary, now Mary's son.

O what wisdom to save us all; Shepherds, sages before him fall.
Grace and majesty what humility. Come on bended knee adore him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel: Joy and peace for the weary heart.
Lift up your heads for your King has come.
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.

Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive, let the gospel ring!
God has made a way, he will have the praise. Tell the world his name is Jesus.

(2x)

Gloria, Gloria! Gloria, Gloria!

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Hylton

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Partita on "Winchester New"

Bruce Neswick
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ HYMN 10

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Wanda and Ron Martinson
with Marilee and Rich Davies

CHORAL RESPONSE

J.S. Bach

Prepare the way, for Christ shall come; rejoice in God our Lord;
Emmanuel shall come to us; our praise we lift in one accord,
our praise in one accord.

from Cantata 151

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

With all my soul I long for you, O Lord,
more than watchmen who wait for the morning.

Anticipating your dawn of peace,
your people wait in hope.

You alone are grace and truth. You alone are steadfast love.

Savior God, meet us in our need. Prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son,
who guides us in the ways of peace.

On his merits and for his sake, forgive our sins.

In him alone we see your glory and our salvation.

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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In dulci jubilo

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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

Dr. 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 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Fox

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-6

Dave Schottke

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

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

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.

SERMON

Prepare Him Room

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Hear the herald's voice now calling in the desert far and near,

Bidding us to make repentance since the kingdom now is here.

O the warning call obey! Now prepare for God a way;

Let the valleys rise in meeting, and the hills bow down in greeting.

Make you straight what once was crooked, make the rougher places plain;

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;

And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

| | | |
|--|-------------------|---|
| OFFERTORY | The Best of Rooms | Randall Thompson |
| Christ, He requires still, wheresoe'er He comes, To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms: Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part Of all the house: the best of all's the heart. | | |
| | | Robert Herrick, <i>Christ's Part</i> (1647) |

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| ▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY | | <i>Regent Square</i> |
| All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: One in might and one in glory while unending ages run. | | |

| | | |
|--|--|---------------|
| PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER | | Dr. Stoltzfus |
| 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. | | |

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| ▲ HYMN 13 | Prepare the Way | <i>Berden väg för Herran</i> |
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|---------------|--|------------|
| ▲ BENEDICTION | | Dr. Hylton |
|---------------|--|------------|

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|------------------------------|--|------------------|
| ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE | | Randall Thompson |
| The best of all's the heart. | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------|
| ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST | | Dr. Stoltzfus |
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| ▲ POSTLUDE | Toccata on "Winchester New" | Bruce Neswick Todd Fickley, organ |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|

▲ Congregation standing, as able

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Our worship services are in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch](#) webpage.

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School for all ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship

Adult Classes

For complete class descriptions, the Zoom link for R.V. Seep's class, and the upcoming January term please visit our Adult Classes webpage. The last Sunday for all classes is December 17, term resumes on January 7.

- **Tim Keller's *Generous Justice*:**
Room #109
- ***Walking with God in Mission for Our Changing World*:** Room #209
- ***The Story Behind "The Story:" God's Plan of Redemption Through History*:**
Garden Room A
- ***The Gospel of Luke*:** Garden Room C
- ***Romans*:** Chapel and online
- **Parent Gathering:** Jones Hall in the Education Building

Youth Sunday School

Visit our Youth webpage for 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

Visit our Children's webpage to read about our Children's Ministry.

- Children ages 2-3 years have Sunday School in the Toddler Room in the main church building.
- Children age 4 through 5th grade meet for Sunday School in the Education Building (National Presbyterian School).

Childcare

The Nursery rooms are available 8:30 am-noon for infants to walkers, up to age 4.

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

MORE EVENTS AT NATIONAL

College Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 20

All NPC college-aged students are invited to reconnect with other NPC youth for a Christmas party on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 pm. Bring a white elephant gift and wear a festive sweater. Contact Kristin Franke at kfranke@nationalpres.org for location details and to RSVP!

New Year's Eve Worship

Sunday, December 31, 10:00 am

We will have a single worship service at 10:00 am on New Year's Eve. Childcare will be provided for ages up to 4 years. Our regular 8:45 and 11:00 am worship schedule and Sunday School for all ages will resume on January 7, 2024.

Bible Reading Guides for 2024

Go deeper into God's word with our convenient Bible reading guides. You can pick up a printed version in our Welcome Center or download your copy from our Resources page. There are full-Bible and New Testament only versions to choose from.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 6, 8:00 am

All men are invited to join us in-person on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Our speaker will be Dr. Ted George, presenting *Embracing the New Year*. Please email grow@national-pres.org for more information or to RSVP.

Week at a Glance

For information about all of these events, please see the Events webpage on our website.

Today, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

- Mission Gifts for Christmas
- 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

Wednesday, December 13

- 2:00 pm: Adult Fellowship Cookies & Carols

Sunday, December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

- Mission Gifts for Christmas
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Moldova prayer meeting in Room #109
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth group

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

- 10:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm: Family Nativity Service
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm: Candlelight Service



**Called
to Care**

Newly separated? Recently divorced?

DivorceCare is a program for those navigating the end of a marriage. Visit www.divorcecare.org or contact careoffice@nationalpres.org 202.537.7540.

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Helpers at NPC!

You can help make our church most welcoming for our multitude of guests this holiday season! Contact Leslie Saum at lsaum@nationalpres.org to sign up and join the fabulous Welcome Team to help greet, usher or hand out Christmas Ornaments on these dates:

- Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24
choice of 4 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. A list of dedications will appear in the bulletin shortly after Christmas.

NPC Small Groups welcome newcomers!

Are you looking for a place to grow spiritually in community? NPC has regular online small groups and in-person Bible studies on weekdays, evenings and Saturdays. If you are interested in visiting one, please visit our Small Groups webpage to get connected.

Fund for Charitable Giving

Grow your generosity. Save on your 2023 taxes. Establish a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) with the NPC Fund for Charitable Giving. Don't know what a DAF is? It's a special charitable giving account, professionally managed and invested to multiply the impact of your family's generosity. Learn more about setting up a DAF before year-end by contacting Jonathan Dickey or Rick Hawthorne on 301-452-8269 or at

JOIN OUR NPC TEAM!

NPC Communications Director Needed

The National Presbyterian Church is searching for a Communications Director to provide internal and external messaging about the life and ministry of NPC using a variety of communication tools including bulletins, website, mailings, email blasts, publications, signage, exhibits, podcasts, and social media. Reporting to the Senior Pastor, the Communications Director will develop and implement an overall communications strategy aligned with the Church's mission and vision. The successful candidate will be creative, analytical, well versed in social media and today's communication tools, and have excellent attention to detail and strong writing and graphic design skills. The Communications Director must be able to manage multiple tasks simultaneously, effectively manage deadlines, collaborate with pastors, staff, and congregants and work independently. The position is based at the National Presbyterian Church campus located in upper Northwest Washington, DC.

Summer Interns at NPC

Applications are now open for Children's and Youth Interns for Summer 2024. Spend your summer supporting our younger congregants in encountering Jesus' love for them at VBS, camps, and weekly programs. Application deadline is January 15, 2024. For more details, visit our Jobs webpage.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

New to National? Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for being here 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 other easy ways to connect with us:

- Sign the guestbook in the pews or online on our Watch webpage.
- Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website or info@nationalpres.org.

Children and Youth E-newsletters

If you have little ones or youth in your household and would like to receive our updates, please:

- Visit our Children's webpage for kids up to 5th grade.
- Visit our Youth webpage for kids in middle and high school.

Prayers

We pray for:

the peace of Christ to fill our homes, our community and the world.

We pray for:

John Wagner as he works through Young Life to spread the Gospel to teens in New York and in cities across the globe.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,

Your Giving Makes a Difference!

Thank you!

Giving Report

As of December 3, 2023

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| | Faith Giving |
| Annual Budget | \$ 3,075,000 |
| Received YTD | \$ 2,579,000 |
| Remaining Needed | \$ 496,000 |

Would you like to make a gift?

- Mail or place it in the offering plate
- Go to nationalpres.org/giving
- Text "NPC" to 833.414.9444
- Donate stock
- Disburse your Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA
- Scan the QR code below:



Monthly financial reports are available in the Narthex.

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

Community Health Note

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.

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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