

December 3, 2023
First Sunday in Advent
Communion

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*Be alert at all times, praying that you may have
the strength to escape all these things that will take
place, and to stand before the Son of Man.*

Luke 21:36



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!

Communion

Today, December 3, you are invited to share in the celebration of communion with us. If you are celebrating from home, please visit our [Resources Page](#) to read the guidelines for preparation.

Information Meeting on 2024 Mission Trip to Romania Today, December 3, 12:30 pm

Join us in the Garden Rooms for lunch and information on an exciting intergenerational mission trip to Romania, August 9-18, 2024, with the Smiles Foundation. Smiles is an entrepreneurial Christian non-profit working with vulnerable groups and communities in Romania.

Advent Family Night Tonight, December 3, 5:00 pm

Start the Advent season on a fun, family-friendly, and faith-centered note! Join us in Stone Fellowship Hall for this much-loved annual event. We'll begin with a short time of worship, then make crafts you can enjoy all season, and have dinner together. To give us a general headcount for ordering supplies and food, please RSVP on our [Events page](#).

Advent Vespers (Evening Worship) Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 pm

Join us for a prayerful evening Advent worship service with Communion in-person in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch page](#).

Mission Gifts for Christmas Sundays, December 10 & 17, Stone 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 December 10 and 17. Or you can choose gifts online and sign up to serve at nationalpres.org/mission-gifts.

Handel's Messiah

Next Sunday, December 10, 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, on Sunday, December 10. All are welcome, and no tickets are necessary!

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: Morning 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!

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ OPENING SONG Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus Arr. Andrews/Scooter

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art.
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever. Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

You draw the hearts of shepherds, you draw the hearts of kings.
Even as a baby, you were changing ev'rything.
You called me to your kingdom before your lips could speak,
and even as a baby you were reaching out for me.
And now we are awaiting the day of your return
when ev'ry eye will see you as heaven comes to earth.
Until the sky is opened, until the trumpet sounds,
The bride is getting ready, the Church is singing out.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in thee.
Come, thou long expected King.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE The Treaster & Stubblefield Families

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

As we bow in worship before you, O Lord, turn the key to my heart's door.
I am too often ungrateful and disobedient, and it has gathered rust.
Forgive me when in sin I turn from you and do not hear you knocking.
Lord Jesus, oil the hinges of my heart's door,
that it may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.

Prayer from the church in New Guinea

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 Rev. Larsen
- We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe,
 who speaks to us by his Spirit through what has been 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 21:25-36 Deacon Nyla Beth Gawel
Please see page 7.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Jill Meek
 Director of Children's Ministries

*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 Advent Series: *Prepare Him Room* Dr. Quinn Fox
 Stay Alert

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. Ray Hylton, Sr.

Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes, gifts and prayer cards as you exit.

- ▲ OFFERING SONG Advent Hymn Christy Nockels
- Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the everlasting light;
 Son of righteousness arise and triumph o'er these chains of mine.
 Come, thou long-awaited One, in the fullness of your love.
 And loose this heart bound up by shame, and I will never be the same.
*So, here I wait in hope of you. All my soul's longing through and through.
 Dayspring from on high be near, and Daystar in my heart appear.*
 Dark and cheerless is the morn, until your love in me is born.
 And joyless is the evening song, until Emmanuel has come. **Chorus**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Dr. Hylton

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

Come and Worship

Bebo Norman

Ethan Zorack-Greene, baritone

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.

▲ CLOSING SONG

King of Kings

Brooke and Scott Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
till from heaven you came running. There was mercy in your eyes.

To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, Three in One.
God of Glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
to redeem the whole creation you did not despise the cross.

For even in your suffering, you saw to the other side.

Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake you died. **Chorus**

And the morning that you rose all of heaven held its breath
till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.

And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,
for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.

Now this Gospel truth of old shall prevail, shall not faint.

By his blood and in his Name, in his freedom I am free,
for the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me. **Chorus**

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Hylton

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

* Our guest violinist today is Ragnhild Cover

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 660 J.S. Bach
John Varcoe, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 15 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers *Llangloffan*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE Mercedes Condy
Jane Stringfellow
Carolyn Vincent

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* Rev. Larsen
As we bow in worship before you, O Lord, turn the key to my heart's door.
I am too often ungrateful and disobedient, and it has gathered rust.
Forgive me when in sin I turn from you and do not hear you knocking.
Lord Jesus, oil the hinges of my heart's door,
that it may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.
Prayer from the church in New Guinea

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON
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We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe,
who speaks to us by his Spirit through what has been 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

Rev. Larsen

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

Holly Novak

Jesus said "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Jill Meek

Director of Children's Ministries

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

Advent Series: *Prepare Him Room*
Stay Alert

Dr. Quinn Fox

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

HYMN 4 verses 1 & 3

Creator of the Stars of Night

Condito alme siderum

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

OFFERTORY	O Come, Emmanuel	Elaine Hagenberg
O come...		
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,		
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.		
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine Advent here,		
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds to bring us light!		
<i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</i>		
O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;		
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, and fill the world with heaven's peace.		
O come...		

with Douglas Bell, cello

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Dr. Hylton

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

Todd Fickley, organ

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.

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ▲ HYMN 6 | Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending | Helmsley |
| ▲ BENEDICTION | | Dr. Fox |
| ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE | | Elaine Hagenberg |
| O come... | | |
| ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST | | Dr. Hylton |
| ▲ POSTLUDE | Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661 | J.S. Bach |
| ▲ Congregation standing, as able | | Todd Fickley, organ |

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 as well as the Zoom link for R.V. Seep's class, please visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#).

- **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
- **Young Professionals Gathering:** Parlor

Childcare

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

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).

NOTES

MORE EVENTS AT NATIONAL

Adult Fellowship Cookies & Carols **Wednesday, December 13, 2:00 pm** **In the Garden Rooms**

Celebrate the joy of the season! We'll have delightful treats, warm fellowship and inspirational Christmas carols. We hope you'll join us as we rejoice together in the birth of our Savior! For more information, please call 202.537.7540 or email Wray Muoio at wmuoio@nationalpres.org.

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.

New Year's Eve Worship **Sunday, 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.

Week at a Glance

For information about all of these events, please see the [Events webpage](#) on our website.

Sunday, December 3

1st Sunday of Advent, Communion

- Sunday School for all ages
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:30 pm: 2024 Intergenerational Mission Trip informational meeting
- 5:00 pm: Advent Family Night

Wednesday, December 6

- 7:00 pm: Advent Vespers

Friday, December 8

- 7:00 pm: *Messiah* rehearsal

Saturday, December 9

- 10:00 am: *Messiah* rehearsal

Sunday, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

- Sunday School for all ages
- 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



**Called
to Care**

The **Deacons' Assistance Fund** offers financial assistance to members of our church experiencing hardship. This fund is solely supported by the generosity of our congregation. Contact Rev. Larsen. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

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 lisaum@nationalpres.org to sign up and join the fabulous Welcome Team to help greet, usher or hand out Christmas Ornaments on these dates:

- Messiah Concert: Sunday, December 10, 5:00 pm
- Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24, choice of 4 services

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.

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.

National Presbyterian School

NPS gives special consideration to applications from NPC families for Pre-K3 through Sixth Grade. Choose from weekly events offered to explore our school. Application deadline is Friday, January 13. For more information visit nps-dc.org or contact Director of Enrollment Robin Baker at rbaker@nps-dc.org or 202.537.7569.

JOIN OUR NPC TEAM!

Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

National Presbyterian Church is searching for an Executive Assistant to provide administrative support to the church's Senior Pastor. The successful candidate will have excellent organizational skills, be a strong communicator and self-starter. Day-to-day responsibilities include managing the Pastor's schedule and correspondence, coordinating Church meetings, partnering with church committees and providing administrative support. The position will serve as the primary interface and receptionist for the Senior Pastor to the congregation, staff, and public. The position is full-time and includes comprehensive benefits. Occasional weekend work may be needed to support church functions. Qualified applicants should send a resume to lskrine@nationalpres.org.

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 mourn:

the passing of Stew Colten.

We pray for:

Steve and Janice Quakenbush in their work with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,
careoffice@nationalpres.org
202.537.7540.

Your Giving Makes a Difference! Thank you!

Giving Report

As of November 19, 2023

	Faith Giving
Annual Budget	\$ 3,075,000
Received YTD	\$ 2,437,000
Remaining Needed	\$ 638,000

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 by Annette Quick and Roger Coy to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Featherston Quick and Howard Roland Quick.



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW
WASHINGTON DC 20016
202.537.0800
WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG



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