

January 7, 2024
Epiphany






Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

Matthew 2:1-2





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!

Sunday School for All Ages Resumes Today!

Now is a great time to join us for the new year! We meet at 9:55 am on Sundays, between our worship services. Please see nationalpres.org for more information about our classes.

Adult Sunday School January Term Kick-off

Today, January 7, Adult Sunday School will meet from 9:55-10:45 am. Please check out our classes on the [Adults Classes](#) page. We hope to see you there!

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.

Laser Tag with Camp Ligonier

Today, January 7, our ministry partners from Ligonier Camp and Conference Center will join us for worship and Parent Gathering to share about their ministry. Then all children and youth are invited for laser tag in the evening!

- 5:00 pm: Children's Laser Tag
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group Laser Tag

High School Overnight

Join your NPC High School youth friends for a lock-in at the church! Meet at 6:00 pm for dinner, then we'll head to Zava Zone for the evening. We'll play games, do devotionals and small groups, and hangout all night!

Week at a Glance

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

Today, January 7

Epiphany

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School resumes for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm: Children's Laser Tag
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group Laser Tag

Friday, January 12 -

Saturday, January 13

- 6:00 pm: High School Overnight

Sunday, January 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: 2nd Sunday Sandwich Making
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King Holiday

- Offices are closed.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making

Join us every 2nd Sunday in [Stone Fellowship Hall](#) after the 11am worship service to make sandwiches for [Martha's Table](#). McKenna's Wagon, by Martha's Table, delivers food to the hungry on the streets of DC every day of the year. This is a great event for the whole family!

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ OPENING SONG Go Tell It On The Mountain Spiritual

Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and ev'rywhere

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night.

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **Chorus**

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo above the earth,

Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. **Chorus**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Chorus**

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O God, your blessed Son was manifested

that he might conquer evil and death,

and make us children of God, and heirs of eternal life.

Mercifully grant that, having this hope within us,

we may be forgiven our sins and purified, even as he is pure.

When he appears again with power and great glory,

may we be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom,

where with you, O Father, and with the Holy Spirit,

he lives and reigns, ever one God, world without end.

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

Nettleton

Glory be to God the Father, glory also to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit,

Ever Three and ever One;

As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be;

Alleluia and thanksgiving, now and through eternity.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

Dr. Stoltzfus

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Mathew 2:1-12

Laura Puryear

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Ligonier Camp Staff

*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.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Larsen

Please bring forward your gift during the offering song.

▲ OFFERING SONG The First Noel Traditional Carol

The first noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They brought their gifts pure gold for a King and frankincense used for divine offerings
And myrrh to embalm the Son of Man: Three gifts that reveal God's mysterious plan.

Chorus

▲ THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Larsen

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

Noel

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Redman

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 All Creation Sing (Joy to the World) Steve Fee, Watts, Handel

All of heaven and all creation sing the wonders of his love! (2x)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing. **Chorus**

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love. **Chorus (3x)**

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Fox

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Chorale Fantasia on
"How Bright Appears the Morning Star"

Dieterich Buxtehude
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ HYMN 68 *verses 1-3* What Star Is This with Beams So Bright

Puer nobis nascitur

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 68, verse 4

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One;
May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O God, your blessed Son was manifested
that he might conquer evil and death,
and make us children of God, and heirs of eternal life.
Mercifully grant that, having this hope within us,
we may be forgiven our sins and purified, even as he is pure.
When he appears again with power and great glory,
may we be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom,
where with you, O Father, and with the Holy Spirit,
he lives and reigns, ever one God, world without end.

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 Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

Dr. Stoltzfus

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We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

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⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Ligonier Camp Staff

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Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

SERMON

The First Star Trek

Dr. Quinn Fox

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

HYMN

The First Nowell

Once by the light of bright'ning star, three wise men came from country far;
 To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.
 The star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
 And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**
 Then entered in those wise men three, fell reverently upon their knee,
 And offered there in his presence, their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

OFFERTORY

Bethlehem, of Noblest Cities

Howard Helvey

Bethlehem, of noblest cities, none can once with thee compare;
 Thou alone the Lord from heaven didst for us incarnate bear.
 Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth;
 To the lands their God announcing, seen in fleshly form on earth.
 By its lambent beauty guided see the eastern kings appear;
 See them bend, their gifts to offer, gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh.
 Solemn things of mystic meaning: incense doth our God disclose,
 Gold a royal Child proclaimeth, myrrh a future tomb foreshows.
 Holy Jesus, in thy brightness to the Gentile world displayed,
 With the Father and the Spirit endless praise to thee be paid.
 Bethlehem, of noblest cities, none can once with thee compare;
 Thou alone the Lord from heaven didst for us incarnate bear. Edward Caswell, 1814-1878
 from Prudentius, 348-410
 with Heather Green, violin

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Larsen

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is; blest is the one that trusteth in him. Psalm 34:8

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 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Fox

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Larsen

▲ POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness

J.S. Bach

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES RESUMES THIS WEEK

2024 January Adult Sunday School

January Term adult classes will meet January 7, 14 and 21. For class descriptions and more information please visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#).

- **Practical Christian Ethics for Challenging Times:** Howard Frost, Chapel and online
- **Care-Prayer-Dare:** Ginny Beeson and Lisa Larsen, Garden Room C
- **Faithful Stewards of God's Gracious Gifts:** Ray Hylton and Margaret Gardner, Garden Room A
- **Learning to Live with Difference:** David Montgomery, Room #209
- **Parent Gathering:** Kristin Franke and others, Jones Hall

On January 28 all adults will meet in [Stone Fellowship Hall](#) for our large group gathering, *The Dangerous Act of Following Jesus* with Dr. Mark Labberton, President Emeritus of Fuller Theological Seminary.

Childcare

The Nursery rooms are available 8:30 am until 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).



**Called
to Care**

Deacons

Our Deacons are ready to care for you. They will listen, pray, visit, and encourage you. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

Love one another. John 13:34

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Thank you to all who participated in Mission Gifts for Christmas by representing missionaries and organizations, visiting displays, celebrating the season with NPC friends, and generously sharing your financial resources. You contributed more than \$71,000, above and beyond our annual missions budget, to support the work God is doing in our city and around the world! Thank you!

Intergenerational Trip to Romania

Are you interested in going on a short-term mission trip in 2024? Join us Thursday, January 18, at 7 pm via Zoom to hear about the Intergenerational Mission Trip to Romania. Our team will work with The Smiles Foundation, a Christian nonprofit dedicated to caring for vulnerable communities in Romania. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards.

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. The position is full-time and includes comprehensive benefits. Qualified applicants should send a resume to npcfadirsearch@gmail.com.

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 those managing chronic health conditions.

We pray for:

Birzeit Social and Cultural Development Center as it supports senior citizens in Bethlehem.

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!

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.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Marcia and Don Bini in loving memory of our fathers Louis Bini and Carl Freeman.

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.



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