

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Christmas Eve

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace among those whom he favours!'*

Luke 2:13-14



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!

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 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

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

- Office is closed

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

- 10:00 am: Traditional Worship

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day

- Office is closed

Saturday, January 6

- 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, January 7

Epiphany

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

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 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm services.

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!*

10:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Fantasia on Adeste Fideles Bruce Neswick
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Monday Night Small Group

CHORAL RESPONSE Quem Vidistis Pastores Daniel Pinkham
Quem vidistis pastores? Dicit! Annuntiate nobis in terris quia apparuit. *Christmas Cantata*
Natum vidimus natum et choros angelorum collaudantes Dominum. Alleluia!

*Whom did you see, shepherds? Tell us! Proclaim to us: who has appeared on earth?
We saw the newborn child and choirs of angels praising the Lord. Alleluia!*

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 dark and empty ways we have wandered.

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

SILENT CONFESSION AND CHORAL MEDITATION Paul Christiansen

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.

Now redeemed from sin and sorrow, hearts renewed we greet the morrow:

Christ the babe was born for you. Infant holy, infant lowly.

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 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

Rev. Larsen

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-14

Ken Rathje

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,* the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Larsen

Children and congregation together

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Congregation as children return to pews

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SERMON

Prepare Him Room
The Humble Birth of the King
Luke 2:15-20

Dr. Quinn Fox

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE

O Magnum Mysterium

Daniel Pinkham

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum

Christmas Cantata

Ut animalia viderunt Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio!

Beata virgo cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

*O great mystery and wondrous sacrament
That animals should witness the newborn Lord lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb was deemed worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.*

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

OFFERTORY

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Daniel Pinkham
Christmas Cantata

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Jubilate Deo omnis terra, servite Dominum in laetitia.

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Introite in conspectu ejus, in exultatione..

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Scitote quoniam Dominus ipse est Deus, ipse fecit nos, et non ipsi nos.

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all of good will.

Sing joyfully to God, all the earth; serve the Lord with gladness.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all of good will.

Enter into his presence with exultation.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all of good will.

Know that the Lord alone is God; he has made us, and not we ourselves.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all of good will. Alleluia!

▲ 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. Hylton

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 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Fox

▲ CHORAL ALLELUIA

Daniel Pinkham

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Hylton

▲ POSTLUDE

Fantasia on "In Dulci Jubilo"

J.S. Bach

Todd Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

BRASS

Woodrow English, trumpet

James McAloon, trumpet

Emma Shaw, French horn

Michael Burne, trombone

TIMPANI

Glenn Schmitt

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Our regular worship services will resume in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch](#) webpage on January 7.

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

2024 January Adult Sunday School

Sunday School will resume in the new year. January Term classes will meet January 7, 14 and 21. On January 28 all adults will meet in [Stone Fellowship Hall](#) for our large group gathering, *The Dangerous Act of Following Jesus* with Mark Labberton. 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:** Garden Room A
- **Learning to Live with Difference:** David Montgomery, Room #209
- **Parent Gathering:** Kristin Franke and others, Jones Hall

Childcare

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

Youth Sunday School resumes January 7

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 resumes January 7

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).

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one?

GriefShare is a 13-week video and small group Christian based program for those who are mourning. The material focuses on practical tools for healing. Visit www.griefshare.org for more information or contact careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540



Called to Care

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 npcfund@nationalpres.org.

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.

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class

Saturdays, January 20 & 27, online

Becoming a church member here at National Presbyterian Church can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the online Pathway of Christian Discipleship classes on January 20 & 27. Please see the [Events webpage](#) for more information or contact Kemet Rakiatu to register by January 10th at krakiatu@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7578.

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:
that we share Christ's love with others.

We pray for:
Bethlehem Bible College,
as they prepare Christian leaders
to serve churches and communities
in the Middle East.

How may we pray for you?
Please submit prayer requests
to the Care Office,
careoffice@nationalpres.org
202.537.7540.

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.

Your Giving Makes a Difference! Thank you!

Giving Report

As of December 17, 2023

	Faith Giving
Annual Budget	\$ 3,075,000
Received YTD	\$ 2,738,000
Remaining Needed	\$ 337,000

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.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are offered to the glory of God and in honor of Girvan Maxwell Singh's December 26th birthday by the Singh family.



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