

December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY NATIVITY

5:00 PM

*While they were there,
the time came for her to deliver her child.
And 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.*

Luke 2:6-7

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)



We are delighted that you have joined us this Christmas Eve
to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please join us for worship **Sunday, December 31**

10:00 am in the Sanctuary

You are welcome every Sunday!

Full schedule resumes on January 7, 2024 with
8:45 & 11:00 am: worship in the Sanctuary and online

9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages



CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY

5:00 PM

Sanctuary and Online

Story of the Birth of Our Savior

PRELUDE Christmas Intrada David Conte
John Varcoe, organ

WELCOME Dr. Quinn Fox

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law.

All: Born to redeem those that were under the law
so that we might receive adoption as children of God. Galatians 4:4-5

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Jordan, Natalie, Eleanor, and Henry Chapman

▲ CONGREGATIONAL HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste Fideles*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Isaiah Foretells the Coming of Christ

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

THE PROPHECY

Angels Visit Mary and Joseph

ANGEL TO MARY

ANGEL TO JOSEPH

Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem

DUET A Cradle in Bethlehem Sara Groves

Sing sweet and low a lullaby, till angels say Amen; a mother tonight is rocking a cradle in Bethlehem.

Wise men follow through the dark a star that beckons them;
a mother tonight is rocking a cradle in Bethlehem.

A little Child will lead them, the prophets said of old;

in storm and tempest heed him until your bell is tolled.

Sing sweet and low a lullaby, till angels say Amen; a mother tonight is rocking a cradle in Bethlehem.

Ethan Zorack-Greene and Joanna Zorack-Greene

The Birth of Jesus

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *please remain seated*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Angels Visit the Shepherds

ANGELS TO SHEPHERDS

HEAVENLY HOST

CHOIRS

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Angel Choir

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Congregation: Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Once in Royal David's City

Shepherd Choir

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Shepherd Choir

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn; Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
If you take good heed to the angel's words: Rise up, shepherd, and follow:
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow, follow; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *please remain seated*

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

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

Three kings looked up and saw a star

Shining in the east beyond them far,

And to the earth it gave great light,

And so it continued both day and night.

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

Three Wise Men Follow the Star

ARRIVAL OF THE WISE MEN

HEROD QUESTIONS PRIEST AND WISE MEN

WISE MEN FIND JESUS

HYMN

We Three Kings

Three Kings of Orient

Kings: Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice;

Alleluia, Alleluia sounds the earth and skies.

Congregation: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

We Present Our Gifts

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

Dr. Fox

Like the magi, we present our own gifts.

Your gifts support the ministries and mission of National Presbyterian Church.

OFFERTORY

Messiah

Francesca Battistelli

Ethan Zorack-Greene and Joanna Zorack-Greene

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dr. Fox

▲ CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Joy to the World!

Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her king!

Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

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.

BLESSING AND INVITATION TO THE MANGER

Dr. Fox

POSTLUDE

Carillon on "Joy to the World"

Mary Beth Bennett

Todd Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing as able

CAST

Narrators

Glenn and Katherine Schmitt

Isaiah

Peter Crumley

Holy Family

Pat Zhou and Joy Eckert
with Naomi

Angels

Sasha May
Eleanor Schmitt
Meghan Thompson

Wise Men

James Velasco
Lucas Velasco
Brandon Cibor

Priest

Henry Evans

King Herod

Adele Muoio

Innkeeper

Jane Evans

Angel Choir

Sofia Beyli, Eleanor Chapman,
George Duncan, Nathan Forbes,
Clara Gamse, Mack Gawel,
Jag Gerken, Claire Granville,
Andrew Horniak, Colin Horniak,
Javier Kingsland, Alexander Lamb,
Mateo Marquez, Amaliya Michaels,
Mateo Morris, Hannah Pippert,
Elizabeth Safwat, Claire Tamny,
Isabelle Toppings, Eleanor Wheatley,
Charles Wingfield

Shepherd Choir

Georgia Ballman, Eleanor Crumpler,
Wesley Duncan, Carter Gamse,
Nyla Ann Gawel, Virginia Herndon,
Alex Horniak, Evelyn Kingsland,
Lucy Marquez, Wynn Pippert,
Charles Safwat, Max Schestopol,
Caroline Toppings,
Boone Vanderbloemen,
Campbell Vanderbloemen,
Sofiya Wynnycky

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Pastor

Dr. Quinn Fox

Director

Jill Meek

Costumes

Margot Lamb, Joyce Martin,
Katherine Schmitt, Amy Thompson

Cast and Cue Coordinators

Kristin Franke, Melanie Lenhard,
Kyle Putnam

Shepherd Choir Director

Susan Kozel

Shepherd Choir Assistants

Lisa Herndon, Emily Kingsland

Angel Choir Director

Nyla Beth Gawel

Angel Choir Assistants

Lewis Lamb, Lalla Marquez
Casandra Morris, Kelsey Morris

Set Crew

Bill McNett
Jau'Nelle Huges
Will Muoio
Robert Payne
Samuel Interiano
Robert Racino

Wreath Lighters

Jordan, Natalie, Eleanor,
and Henry Chapman

Pianist

Joanna Zorack-Greene

Organists

John Varcoe, Todd Fickley

Technical Director

Bill McNett

Tech Crew

Jau'Nelle Huges
Will Muoio
Henry Stewart

Livestream Operator

Robert Payne

All are invited for Christmas cookies in Stone Fellowship Hall following the service.

2024 AT NATIONAL

Sundays at National are full of inspirational preaching, enriching traditional and contemporary music, Christian education classes for all ages and stages, and time to connect with one another. A sampling of events and programming for the upcoming year:

Sunday School for Adults, Youth and Children Resumes January 7

Know and grow in God's Word through weekly Sunday School opportunities for all.

Club 45

Club 45 (fourth and fifth graders) meets regularly to grow in faith and friendship through games and devotionals.

Youth

Middle and high school students gather regularly for fun games, meaningful conversation, and Bible study.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is a week-long half-day Bible camp June 24-28 for kids age 4 through 5th grade. Each day includes Bible teaching, music, crafts, games and service projects.

Youth Summer Trips

High School students will serve on a mission trip in the Dominican Republic. Middle school students will attend The Great Escape camp in northeast Maryland.

Marriage

For engaged and married couples, we offer a Prepare for Marriage course, an Alpha Marriage class, and ongoing marriage counseling.

Seasonal Food Drives and Great Day of Service

There are year-round opportunities to serve, including a special day of service with family-friendly, hands-on service projects here onsite and in the surrounding community.

Care and Support

Those going through a difficult time can find a listening ear, prayer, and sustained spiritual support in times of transition or grief.

Small Groups

Our warm and welcoming small groups gather throughout the week in person and online for Bible study, book discussion, prayer, support, and time together.

Large Groups

Our large groups include Men's Breakfast, Women's Ministry Brunch, Military Ministry, Senior Adults, Chancel Choir and Festival Choir.

You'll find the details about these and more at www.nationalpres.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School Schedule

Our children's, youth and adult Sunday School will not meet on December 24, or 31. Classes resume January 7 with a new January-term line-up of adult classes. Please visit our [adults classes page](#) online for the class list.

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Merry Christmas! It's not too late to contribute to missionaries and organizations. You can [order online](#) until midnight on December 31.

Need a Bible?

We have free gift Bibles in the narthex for you or anyone who does not have a Bible of their own. Please pick one up today as our gift to you!

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 learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two-day online Pathway of Christian Discipleship classes on January 20 & 27. For more information and to register contact Kemet Rakiatu by January 11 at krakiatu@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7578.

Bible Reading Guides for 2024

Why not make 2024 the year you read through the Bible? One way to do this is by using a Bible reading guide. [Download your copy](#) from our Resources page. If you'd like to just read the New Testament, please [click here](#).

Prepare for Marriage Course

Saturday, March 16, 8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This class is offered once per year for any engaged couple. Participation is required for any couple whose wedding will be held at NPC. Contact Wray Muoio to register: wmuoio@nationalpres.org; 202.537.7540

Prayers

We praise God for the gift of his son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This week, we especially pray for:

Those serving in the military or foreign service, and for all those feeling separation or loss during the holiday season.

How can we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to Wray Muoio in the Care Office, wmuoio@nationalpres.org
202.537.7540.



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