

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
CANDLELIGHT & CAROLS
8:00 AND 10:00 PM**

*For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6*

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



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!

▲ A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

8:00: Deacon Kathy Arveson

10:00: Dr. Robert Betz

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE

All Praise to Thee

Elaine Hagenberg

All praise to thee, eternal God, who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
 Dost take a manger for thy throne, whilst worlds on worlds are thine alone. *Alleluia!*
 Thou comest in the dark of night to make us children of the light,
 To make us, in the realms divine, like thine own angels round thee shine. *Alleluia!*
 A little Child, thou art our Guest that weary ones in thee may rest;
 Forlorn and lowly is thy birth that we may rise to heav'n from earth. *Alleluia! Amen.*

Martin Luther

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

8:00: Dr. Quinn Fox

10:00: Rev. Larsen

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!

*Minuit, Chrétien, c'est l'heure solennelle où L'Homme-Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous,
 Pour effacer la tache originelle et de son Père arrêter le courroux.
 Le monde entire tresaille d'espérance, a cette nuit qui lui donne Sauveur.
 Peuple, à genoux! Attends ta deliverance! Noël! Noël! Voici le Rédempteur!*

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love, and is gospel is peace.
 By his true light are we offered salvation, and in his name all oppressed find release.
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raising, let all within us praise God's holy name.
 Christ is the Lord: Then ever, ever praise him. His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
 Joanna Zorack-Greene and Tess Ottinger, sopranos

EVENING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

8:00: Dr. Fox

10:00: Rev. Larsen

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

*We invite everyone to join in lighting Christmas candles.
 Members of the choir will assist the congregation in lighting.
 Please light the candle of the person closest to you,
 sharing the candlelight along the entire pew.
 Holding the lighted candle upright will keep it from dripping.
 At the conclusion of the final hymn, upon signal from the minister,
 please extinguish all candles.*

HYMN

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Stille Nacht"

Todd Fickley

▲ *Congregation standing as able*

All are invited for Christmas cookies in Stone Fellowship Hall following the 8:00 pm service.

*For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6

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](#), it is also available on our Resources page.

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.



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW
WASHINGTON DC 20016
202.537.0800
www.nationalpres.org