

December 6, 2023
Advent Vespers Communion

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into
ploughshares, and their spears into
pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up
sword against nation, neither shall they
learn war any more.*

Isaiah 2:4

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)



7:00 PM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

ADVENT VESPERS COMMUNION

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 659

J.S. Bach
Todd Fickley, Organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

One: The Spirit and the Church cry out,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: All who await his appearance pray,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: The whole Church prays,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

▲ HYMN 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O God of the ages and ages to come,

Make us watchful as we await the coming of your Son our Savior.

When he comes, may he not find us sleeping in sin,

But awake and rejoicing in his praises.

Bring to light things hidden in darkness, even the shadows of our hearts.

Forgive our sins, we pray. Then cleanse and renew us,

That we may walk in your light and glorify your name,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

Elder Barbara Mitchell

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE O God of Every Nation

*Munich***Choir**

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
 Redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand;
 Where fear of hate divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
 In love and justice guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

Congregation

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
 When hatred and division give way to love and peace,
 Till dawns the morning glorious when peace on earth shall reign,
 And Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Dr. Hylton

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation When God's Time Had Ripened

Alfred J. Fedak

When God's time had ripened, Mary's womb bore fruit,
 Scion of the Godhead, sprung from Jesse's root;
 So the True Vine branches from the lily's stem,
 The Rose without blemish blooms in Bethlehem.
 More than mind can fathom, limit or untwine,
 This mysterious yoking—human and divine;
 But what reason fetters faith at length unlocks,
 And wise hearts discover truth in paradox.
 As the Bread of Heaven, that we might be fed,
 Chose a manger cradle in the House of Bread,
 So has life eternal mingled in the womb
 With our mortal nature to confound the tomb.
 For the swaddled infant in a humble place
 Holds our hope of glory and our means of grace;
 In the love enfleshed here dawns the world's rebirth,
 Promise of salvation, pledge of peace on earth.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

PRAYER OF RESPONSE AND THE 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 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us, BWV 645

J.S. Bach

Todd Fickley, Organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

An offering will be received at the doors as you exit.

ADVENT

For all the information about the many wonderful opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Savior with NPC, please visit nationalpres.org/Christmas.

Mission Gifts for Christmas Sundays, December 10 & 17 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. It takes many of us to host this special occasion. Sign up to serve at nationalpres.org/mission-gifts.

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.

Handel's Messiah

This 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!

Sunday, New Year's Eve, 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.



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