

December 14, 2025  
Third Sunday of Advent

# Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
Philippians 2:5-6*



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)  
Carol Han(Connections)

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more information about all our events, please visit the [Events page](#) on our website at [nationalpres.org](http://nationalpres.org). Questions? Email us at [info@nationalpres.org](mailto:info@nationalpres.org)!

## **Mission Gifts for Christmas Today, December 14**

### **Stone Fellowship Hall**

All are invited to fellowship, celebrate the gift of Jesus, and support missionaries and mission organizations at our annual Mission Gifts for Christmas event. Mission Gifts enables you to give meaningful gifts instead of another “thing,” by funding God’s work locally and internationally. Each donation you make in an honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker helps missionaries and organizations serve those in need. Please visit our [Mission Gifts](#) page for more information.

## **A Service of Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 21**

### **One service at 10:00 am**

A joyful time of music and singing!

## **Week at a Glance**

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

### **Sunday, December 14**

- **All Day:** Mission Gifts for Christmas
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm: Messiah Concert
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

### **Sunday, December 21 - Single Service**

- 10:00 am: Lessons & Carols
- 11:15 am: Job Loss Prayer Gathering
- 11:15 am: Coffee, Cookies, & Community

## **Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering Sunday, December 21, 11:15 am**

### **Room 109**

Your Deacons will host a prayer gathering for those facing job loss and uncertainty. Come for prayer and support.

## **Handel's Messiah Concert Today at 5:00 pm!**

National Presbyterian Church Festival Choir and Orchestra presents *God with Us: Our Coming Savior* in Handel's *Messiah* in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch page](#) at 5:00 pm, on Sunday, December 14. All are welcome, and no tickets are necessary! A freewill offering will be received. For generous donations now please scan this QR code.



# DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

*Invite your friends and neighbors to celebrate Christ's birth at National!*

## **5:00 pm**

### **Family Nativity Service**

Our children, youth, and adults will bring to life the nativity story 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.

*Cookies and festive photo booth available after all three services.*

*Childcare available during 5:00 & 8:00 pm services.*

# 8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

Improvisations

Kevin Rose, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

- ▲ OPENING SONG                      Go Tell It On The Mountain                      *Go Tell It*  
*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*

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Kelsey, Casandra, and Mateo Morris

- ▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE                      *Go Tell It*  
Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and ev'rywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Dr. Hylton

We come before you, O God, a sinful people, a needy flock.

Cleanse us, Lord, then shepherd us in your way.

While we tarry on this earth, keep us seriously seeking after you,  
and dependently following you every day.

When you come again, may we not be found hiding what you have entrusted to us,  
nor serving our own willfulness, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished,  
but waiting and longing for you, gentle Savior, and glorious sovereign forever.

Richard Baxter, 1615-1691

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!

- ▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH                      An Advent Affirmation                      Dr. Hylton  
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 just the right moment in history,  
God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary,  
was nurtured and matured in Joseph's household, and who came to Israel and all  
the world to reveal the kingdom of God is at hand.

We believe that this glorious good news heralded by angels points not only to a baby  
in a manger in Bethlehem, but also to the cross of Calvary, and to the empty tomb.  
There the angel's message "He is risen!" heralded the glorious good news of  
Christ's resurrection.

We remember that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and to show us the  
very character of God.

We recognize that he comes each day to meet us in our need, and to offer abundant life.  
We rejoice in the knowledge that he will one day return in glory to rule in righteousness,  
to renew all things, and to claim us as God's own.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Hylton

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:5-11  
*Pew Bible Page 954*

Rex Roe

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Jill Meek

Director of Children's Ministry

*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.  
Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.*

SERMON

*God with Us*  
The Promise, the Presence, the Peace

Rev. Lisa Larsen

## 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. Craig Meek

*You may bring your gift forward during the offering song,  
or place it in an offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary.*

▲ 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*

▲ 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

Rev. Meek

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, G.F. 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      Rev. Larsen

- ▲ SENDING      NPC Band

- ▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Please come forward after worship for confidential prayer by one of our Deacons or Stephen Ministers.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

# NOTES

# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE                      Prelude on "The Holly and the Ivy"                      Herbert Sumsion  
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP                      Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

▲ HYMN 8                      Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates                      *Truro*

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE                      Laura, Nick, Carter, Clara, and Ella Gamse

CHORAL RESPONSE                      J.S. Bach  
Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning.                      *Ermuntre dich*  
You shepherds shudder not with fright, but hear the angels' warning.  
This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be;  
The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

CONFESSION OF SIN in unison                      Dr. Hylton  
We come before you, O God, a sinful people, a needy flock.  
Cleanse us, Lord, then shepherd us in your way.  
While we tarry on this earth, keep us seriously seeking after you,  
and dependently following you every day.  
When you come again, may we not be found hiding what you have entrusted to us,  
nor serving our own willfulness, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished,  
but waiting and longing for you, gentle Savior, and glorious sovereign forever.  
Richard Baxter, 1615-1691

SILENT CONFESSION AND CHORAL MEDITATION                      Paul Christiansen  
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,                      Polish Carol  
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!

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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 just the right moment in history,  
God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary,  
was nurtured and matured in Joseph's household, and who came to Israel and all  
the world to reveal the kingdom of God is at hand.

We believe that this glorious good news heralded by angels points not only to a baby  
in a manger in Bethlehem, but also to the cross of Calvary, and to the empty tomb.  
There the angel's message "He is risen!" heralded the glorious good news of  
Christ's resurrection.

We remember that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and to show us the  
very character of God.

We recognize that he comes each day to meet us in our need, and to offer abundant life.

We rejoice in the knowledge that he will one day return in glory to rule in righteousness,  
to renew all things, and to claim us as God's own.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Hylton

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:5-11

Rebecca Armerding

*Pew Bible Page 954*

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Jill Meek

Director of Children's Ministry

*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.*

*Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.*

SERMON

*God with Us*

Rev. Lisa Larsen

The Promise, the Presence, the Peace

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

*Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.*

RESPONSE

Irby

*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.

*Congregation*

He came down from earth to heaven who is God and Lord of all,

And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.

With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior Holy. C. F. Alexander

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Craig Meek

OFFERTORY

Thou Who Wast Rich

Molly Ijames

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;

Heav'ns throne and glory did surrender our true salvation to procure.

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for our sake becamest man;

Stooping so low, but sinners raising heav'nwards by God's eternal plan.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for our sake becamest man.

Thou ho art love beyond all telling, Savior and King we worship thee;

Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

Frank Houghton

▲ 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 THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Meek

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 11

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

Valet will ich dir geben

▲ BENEDICTION

Rev. Larsen

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Molly Ijames

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Meek

▲ POSTLUDE

Offertoire on a French Noel, Op. 60 No. 3

Alexandre Guilmant

Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Please come forward after worship for confidential prayer by one of our Deacons or Stephen Ministers.

Everyone is invited downstairs to Stone Fellowship Hall after worship

for Mission Gifts for Christmas

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES



# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **All Day:** Mission Gifts for Christmas Event
- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School For All Ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship

## Childcare

Childcare is available on the second floor of the main church building from 8:30 am until the close of the 11:00 am service. To maintain a safe environment, we have new age guidelines for each room, using the child's age as of September 30, 2025.

Babies - 17 months are in Room 207. Early Toddlers (18 months - 2 years old) are in Room 230. 3's and 4's are in the Toddler Room (Room 231).

## Library Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Our NPC Library, located on the second floor, is open from 9:00 am-1:00 pm on Sundays. Stop in to say hi! We've got books for all ages and ministries to enrich your faith journey and further our mission of leading people to become faithful followers of Jesus together in God's world.

## Children's Sunday School

Visit our [Children's webpage](#) to learn about our Children's Ministry.

- Children ages 2-3 years have Sunday School in the Toddler Rooms in the main church building.
- Children age 4 through 5th grade meet for Sunday School in the Education Building (National Presbyterian School).

## Youth Sunday School

Visit our [Youth webpage](#) for information about Sunday School, youth group, and other special events.

- Youth Sunday School, for grades 6-12, meets in the Multipurpose Building for fellowship, worship, and small group Bible studies.

## Adult Sunday School

- **Galatians and James**, R.V. Seep (*Chapel & Online*)
- **Discovering the Gospel of John**, Margaret Gardner & Quinn Fox (*Garden Room C*)
- **Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully in a World of Difference**, Ginny Beeson, Lewrene Glaser, Nancy Fox (*Room 209*)
- **Parent Gathering** (*Jones Hall, National Presbyterian School*)

*\*Today, 12/14 is the last meeting of the Adult Sunday School classes above  
The classes below will begin on 1/4\**

- **Religion and the American Revolution**, Charles Hambrick-Stowe (*Chapel & Online*)
- **How Christianity Changed the World**, David Siegest (*Garden Room C*)
- **Pathway to Christian Discipleship**, NPC Staff (*Garden Room A*)
- **Parent Gathering** (*Jones Hall, National Presbyterian School*)

Visit our [website](#) for descriptions and more information.



## Deacons

Our deacons are ready to care for you. They will listen, pray, visit, and encourage you. [careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org) / 202-537-7540

*Love one another.*

John 13:34

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Spread the Joy of Jesus this Season Calling all helpers for Christmas Eve!**

We will welcome hundreds of guests to NPC this Christmas Eve, and you can show them Christ's love by greeting, ushering, or handing out gifts at any of the three services on Dec. 24. Contact Carol Han ([chan@nationalpres.org](mailto:chan@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.

## **Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 4, 12:15 pm Sanctuary**

The Session of NPC has called a Congregational Meeting to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Dr. Quinn Fox upon his retirement. The Congregational Meeting will be in person and will not be live streamed.

## **Laser Tag with Camp Ligonier Sunday, January 4**

On January 4 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

For more information and to register, visit our [Events](#) page.

## **Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Four-part Sunday series, starting January 4**

Becoming a church member here at NPC can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or learn more about Christian faith, please attend the Pathway of Christian Discipleship class on January 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 9:55 am. While everyone is welcome to come, attendance at all four sessions is required for membership. For more information or to register, visit our [Events page](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu (202-537-7578, [krakiatu@nationalpres.org](mailto:krakiatu@nationalpres.org)). Register by December 15.

## **Romania Mission Trip Info Session Sunday, January 11, 12:30 pm Garden Rooms**

Are you interested in joining a short-term mission trip in 2026? NPC will participate in a mission trip to Romania, June 5–14, partnering with the Smiles Foundation and working with their Outreach Team to care for vulnerable communities. Come to the info meeting to learn more! For additional details, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards ([jedwards@nationalpres.org](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org)).

## **Our Journey of Discipleship Together**

We are all on a journey of faith to grow closer to Christ—through worship, prayer, Scripture, and service. NPC has many resources available to support you on your journey. Please visit [nationalpres.org/discipleship](http://nationalpres.org/discipleship) or contact the Connections Ministry (202-537-7494 or

## **Join our staff - NPC Seeking Communications Manager**

NPC is seeking a creative and detail-oriented Communications Manager who will develop and execute a comprehensive communication strategy that reflects the Church's mission and values. The ideal candidate will possess strong skills in content creation and digital communication, be adept at managing multiple tasks while effectively meeting deadlines, and demonstrate a passion for ministry. Collaboration with staff and congregants is essential to ensure that all communications resonate with the target audience and support established goals. For more information, visit our [Jobs](#) webpage. Qualified applicants should send a resume to [recruiting@nationalpres.org](mailto:recruiting@nationalpres.org).

# 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!

Scan this QR code to learn more about NPC & get connected:



## Newcomers and long-timers:

Let us know you are here!

Whether in the Sanctuary or worshipping online - we want to know you and care for you:

- Please sign the guestbook in the pews or online on our [Watch](#) webpage.

## 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.

## Get Connected Through Service!

Want to share in faith and fellowship through service?

No matter your age, skills, or ability, you can use your gifts to serve our church, our community, and our world. Scan the QR code to learn more about the opportunities below.



- View upcoming community service opportunities on our [Events](#) page or contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards ([jedwards@nationalpres.org](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org)).
- Want to help on Sundays? Visit our [Serve at Church](#) page or contact Carol Han ([chan@nationalpres.org](mailto:chan@nationalpres.org)).
- If you're interested in photography, we would love to utilize your skills to capture photos on Sundays. Contact [communications@nationalpres.org](mailto:communications@nationalpres.org).

## Your Giving Makes a Difference

In this Advent season of hope and generosity, consider how your giving can shine Christ's light for others. If you are able, please make a year end gift toward the remaining amount noted below. If you are blessed with the capacity to do so, consider giving a little more to help those in our congregation that are facing unexpected challenges and are not able to meet their planned giving this year. Together, our shared generosity becomes a powerful expression of God's love made visible among us.

### December 7, 2025 Faith Giving Report

	Faith Giving
Annual Budget	\$ 3,610,000
Received YTD	\$ 3,104,013
Remaining Needed	\$ 506,000

To give now scan the QR code or text "NPC" to 833-414-9444. For other ways to give go to [nationalpres.org/giving](https://nationalpres.org/giving), call our Finance Office at 202-537-7495, or email our Director of Finance and Administration at [lskrine@nationalpres.org](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org).



## Prayers

### We pray:

that we reflect the joy of Christ.

### We pray for:

Friendship Place, as they provide care for people experiencing homelessness.

### How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office, [careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org)  
202-537-7540.

## Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary  
are given to the glory of God

by Johanna Huijssoon  
and her husband Terry,

in loving memory of her mother  
and his "Mutti", Diny Huijssoon,

remembering her December 14th birthday.

The flowers in the Narthex  
are given to the glory of God  
by Grace and Pieter Bottelier

in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary.

*“Let the little children come to me...” – Matthew 19:14*

NPC loves children in worship! Kids learn how to worship God and what it means to be loved and accepted in God's family. As adults, we are blessed with the opportunity to honor our baptismal vows and support the spiritual growth of our youngest disciples as we worship alongside them. If you are worshipping with children nearby, please welcome and encourage them as they grow in their faith.



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