

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent
A Service of Lessons & Carols

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.*

*He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."*
Isaiah 35:4



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)
Carol Han (Connections)

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Today, December 21

One service at 10:00 am

A joyful time of music and singing made more glorious with brass, violin, and harp.

Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering

Today, 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.

Single Service Sunday

Sunday, December 28

One service at 10:00 am

We will have only one traditional service in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am. There will be no Sunday School.

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.

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, December 21 - Single Service

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

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 5:00 pm: Family Nativity Service
- 8:00 pm: Traditional Candlelight Service
- 10:00 pm: Traditional Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 28

- 10:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 11:15 am: Coffee, Cookies, & Community

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.

Mission Gifts for Christmas - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came down to Stone Hall to participate in Mission Gifts for Christmas on December 7 & 14! Your generosity is helping a number of organizations respond to needs in our community and around the world. If you were unable to participate in person, you can still give online through December 31. To contribute, please visit the [Mission Gifts webpage](#).

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.*

10:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Noël

Louis-Claude Daquin
Todd Fickley, organ

CHORAL INTROIT (*from Narthex*)

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
Christ will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.
Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. *Picardy* from Gustav Holst

CALL TO WORSHIP

Matthew 1:18-23

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

▲ PROCESSIONAL HYMN 9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Nicole Austin, Jesse Duncan, Wesley Duncan, and George Duncan

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O come thou, Lord of time and space, and shed on us thy heav'nly grace,
full-shown to us in Christ thy Son, the babe our King who has salvation won.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Choir: *O come, Emmanuel! O come, Emmanuel! O come!*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dr. Quinn Fox

O God, you are our God. Earnestly do we seek you.

Our souls thirst for you; our flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So we have looked on you in the sanctuary, to behold your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, our lips praise you.

Because your loyal love sustains us, with our mouths we confess to you our sin.

You have been our help, and in the shadow of your wings we sing for joy.

We will bless you as long as we live;

We will lift up our hands and call upon your name.

from Psalm 63

CHORAL MEDITATION The Desert Shall Rejoice

Roger Wilson

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad,

and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Say to those that are fearful of heart, "Be strong, and fear not.

Behold, your God will come. He will come and save you."

From Isaiah 35

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. Fox
- 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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| LESSON | Luke 2:1-7 | Dottie Seep |
| HYMN 53 | What Child Is This | Greensleeves |
| LESSON | Luke 2:8-14 | Ethan Zorack-Greene |
| ▲ HYMN 31/32 | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | Mendelssohn |
| LESSON | Luke 2:15-16 | Elder Gerri Hall Nickels |
| ▲ HYMN 23 | Angels We Have Heard on High | Gloria |
| A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES | | Melanie Lenhard |
| | | Associate Director of Children's Ministry |
| HYMN 25 | Away in a Manager | Mueller |

Children return to pews. Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LESSON | Luke 2:17-19 | Judith Hylton |
| ANTHEM | Here, 'Mid the Ass and Oxen Mild | French Carol |
| | Here, mid the ass and oxen mild, sleep, sleep, sleep, my little child. | |
| | <i>Thousand seraphim, thousand cherubim, come from heav'n above to guard the Lord of Love.</i> | |
| | Here, where sweet flow'rs their fragrance bring, sleep, sleep, sleep my little King. | |
| | <i>Thousand seraphim, thousand cherubim, come from heav'n above to guard the Lord of Love.</i> | |
| | Here, where the shepherds' search is done, sleep, sleep, sleep, my little son. | |
| | <i>Thousand seraphim, thousand cherubim, come from heav'n above to guard the Lord of Love.</i> | |
| | King of angels, sleep! | With Sheri Jackson, soprano |
| LESSON | Matthew 2:1-6 | Deacon Paul Waymack |
| HYMN 41 | O Little Town of Bethlehem | St. Louis |
| LESSON | Matthew 2:7-11 | Deacon Joanna Chai |
| ▲ HYMN 56 | The First Nowell | The First Nowell |

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Larsen

OFFERTORY

Still, Still, Still

Norman Luboff

Austrian Carol

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow,

For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,

Holy Star its vigil keeping.

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

The night is peaceful all around you,

Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Pray, pray, pray for the joyous day to come,

While shepherds and wise men in number

See the Christ Child as he slumbers.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen.

With Heather Ledoux Green, violin, and Gréta Kristín Ásgeirsson, harp

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Regent Square

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son

Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever One;

One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

▲ HYMN 40

Joy to the World!

Antioch

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Humility

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,

See, the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Hail the ever-blessèd morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn!

Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem!

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Larsen

▲ POSTLUDE

Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo"

J.S. Bach

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 Coffee, Cookies, and Community.*

COMMONWEALTH BRASS QUINTET

TIMPANI

Chuck Seipp, Trumpet

Elder Glenn Schmitt

Gil Hoffer, Trumpet

Rick Lee, Horn

Greg Hammond, Trombone

Brandon Benson, Tuba

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **10:00 am:** A Service of Lessons and Carols
- **11:15 am:** Coffee, Cookies, and Community

Childcare

Childcare is available on the second floor of the main church building from 9:45 am until the close of the 10:00 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.

NO Sunday School today. The next Sunday School term begins 1/4.

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

- **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.



**Called
to Care**

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who receive special training to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation who are experiencing grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other life difficulties. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

*Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed;
defend the orphan; plead for the widow.*

Isaiah 1:17

EVENTS & 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).

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.

Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, January 10, 8:00 am
Stone Fellowship Hall**

Men are invited to join us in-person at NPC on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. This month we meet on the second Saturday due to the holidays. Serve Director Jonathan Edwards will be the speaker. See you there!

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).

High School Winter Retreat January 23-25, 2025

All high school youth are invited to a weekend away at Northbay Adventure Camp as we spend time growing in friendship with each other and growing in faith with God. For more details, contact Kristin Franke (kfranke@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 or contact the Connections Ministry (202-537-7494 or chan@nationalpres.org).

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

If you're interested in becoming a member of NPC or learning more about the 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, visit our [Events page](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu (202-537-7578, krakiatu@nationalpres.org).

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.

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).
- Want to help on Sundays? Visit our [Serve at Church](#) page or contact Carol Han (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.

Your Giving Makes a Difference

In this season of expectation, may your generosity reflect the hope Christ brings. Your giving helps light the way for our church family, community, and world. Please consider making a year-end gift.

December 14, 2025 Faith Giving Report

	Faith Giving
Annual Budget	\$ 3,610,000
Received YTD	\$ 3,228,000
Remaining Needed	\$ 382,000

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



Prayers

We pray that:

we share Christ's love with others

We pray for:

Unique Learning Center, a Christian ministry strengthening the educational and spiritual lives of children in the Shaw community of Washington, DC.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office, careoffice@nationalpres.org
202-537-7540.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in honor of our beloved friend, Dr. Eleanor (Ellie) Elson Heginbotham, also remembering her husband Erland, her father Dr. Edward L. R. Elson (senior pastor of NPC for 28 years and Chaplain of the Senate for 12 years), her mother Helen, and her sister Beverly.



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW
WASHINGTON DC 20016
202.537.0800
WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG



[/NATIONALPRES](https://nationalpres.org)

[@NATIONALPRES](https://www.instagram.com/nationalpres)