

December 24, 2025  
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

*And the Word became flesh  
and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.  
John 1:14*



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)

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 28**  
10:00 am in the Sanctuary

**You are welcome every Sunday!**

Full schedule resumes on January 4, 2026 with

8:45 am: Contemporary Worship

9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am: Traditional Worship

12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, and Community



# WORSHIP

## 8:00 AND 10:00 PM

Sanctuary and Online

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### ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Christmas Concerto

Arcangelo Corelli

*Grave - Allegro - Adagio - Vivace - Allegro - Pastorale*

Todd Fickley, organ

CHRISTMAS CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ 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! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

8:00: Robyn and John Soldner,

Kathy and Paul Arveson, and Dyan Gomez

10:00: Laura, Dan, Calvin, Evan, and Frances Atchison

CHORAL RESPONSE Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child

Roger Wagner

*Now is born the divine Christ Child: Play the musette, play the tuneful oboe!*

French Carol

*Now is born the divine Christ Child: Let us sing and rejoice this day!*

Ages long since are past and gone when the prophets foretold his coming;

Ages long since are past and gone! Noël, Noël then let us sing!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Larsen

Gracious and merciful God,

we remember how your Son quietly entered human history on that first Christmas Eve.

We come before you in wonder, adoration, and humble repentance.

We are your children, but we need your healing touch.

Forgive our sins and cleanse us, we humbly pray.

Capture our hearts and minds with the quiet splendor

that transformed a manger into heaven's throne.

Were it a thousand times more fair,

it would still be too poor a cradle for you, dear Jesus.

Holy Child, make for yourself a place within our hearts,

that each of us may keep for you a quiet, holy chamber.

Martin Luther

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

▲ 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 heav'n and nature sing....  
 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
 He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found....  
 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
 The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.... Isaac Watts

▲ 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, 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 Rev. Larsen

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-14 8:00: Carolann Haley  
*Pew Bible page 862* 10:00: Elder Gerri Hall Nickels

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

SERMON The Gift We Didn't Expect Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE Let the Stable Still Astonish Dan Forrest  
 Let the stable still astonish: straw-dirt floor, dull eyes, dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;  
 Crumbling, crooked walls; no bed to carry that pain, and then the Child,  
 Rag-wrapped, laid to cry in a trough. Who would have chosen this?  
 Who would have said, "Yes, let the God of all the heavens and earth be born here in this place?"  
 Who, but the same God who stands in the darker, fouler rooms of our hearts and says,  
 "Yes, let the God of all the heavens and earth be born here in this place."  
 Let the stable astonish... In this place... Be born here in this place. Leslie Leyland Fields  
With Danielle Cho, cello



## 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!  
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!

Tess Ottinger and Sheri Jackson, sopranos

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Fox

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

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,

Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory be, 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!"

## 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!

## BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

## POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Stille Nacht"

Todd Fickley

▲ *Congregation standing as able*

*Everyone is invited downstairs to Stone Fellowship Hall  
for cocoa, cookies, and a holiday photo after worship.*

*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

# 2026 AT NATIONAL

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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 4**

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.

### **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

VBS is a week-long half-day Bible camp June 22-26 for kids age 4 through 5th grade. Each day includes Bible teaching, music, crafts, games and service projects.

### **Youth**

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

### **Youth Summer Trips**

Middle school youth will attend a summer conference to learn more about Christ and grow in faith together. High school youth will serve on a mission trip in the Dominican Republic.

### **Young Professionals**

Each week, young professionals gather for a Bible study that focuses on applying faith to daily life in Washington DC, as well as for periodic social events.

### **Parents**

During the Sunday school hour, parents are invited to drop in to Parent Gathering for coffee, fellowship, and Bible study of the passages being read in children's and youth Sunday school. There are also regular parent small groups open to join.

### **Great Day of Service and Mission Trips**

There are year-round opportunities to serve, including a special day of service with family-friendly, hands-on projects both onsite and in the surrounding community. Additionally, there will be a summer Mission Trip to Romania.

### **Care and Support**

Those going through a difficult time can find a listening ear, prayer, and sustained spiritual support in times of illness, 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. We also offer short-term groups during Lent and early autumn.

### **Large Groups**

Our large groups include Men's Breakfasts, Women's Ministry Retreat and Lunches, Military Ministry, Senior Adults, Chancel Choir and Festival Choir.

You'll find the details about these and more at [www.nationalpres.org](http://www.nationalpres.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sunday School Schedule

Our children's, youth, and adult Sunday School will not meet on December 28. Classes resume January 4 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.

## 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.

## Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Sundays, January 4 - 25, in-person

To inquire about membership or learn more about Christian faith, please attend this four-part in-person Pathway of Christian Discipleship class. For more information and to register contact Kemet Rakiatu at [krakiatu@nationalpres.org](mailto:krakiatu@nationalpres.org) or 202.537.7578.

## 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.

# 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!

## 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.

## Ways to Connect:

- Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website or [info@nationalpres.org](mailto:info@nationalpres.org).
- Contact our Connections Ministry to get a conversation started: [chan@nationalpres.org](mailto:chan@nationalpres.org).

## 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](mailto:wmuoio@nationalpres.org)  
202.537.7540.

## Your Giving Makes a Difference

To make a gift:

- Go to [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving)
- Text "NPC" to 833.414.9444
- Scan the QR code



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