

December 7, 2025  
Second Sunday of Advent

# Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,  
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.'"  
Luke 3:4*



Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastors

Parish Associates

Music

Ministry Directors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.  
Rev. Larsen  
Dr. Quinn Fox  
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 7 & 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 events. 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.

## **Grief Workshop**

**Today, December 7, 12:30 pm**

### **Garden Rooms**

Care Ministries will offer a Grief Workshop on “Navigating the Holidays” to provide support for those who are grieving this season.

## **Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering**

**Today, December 7, 12:15 pm**

### **Room 109**

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

## **Week at a Glance**

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

### **Sunday, December 7**

- **All Day:** Mission Gifts for Christmas
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Job Loss Prayer Gathering
- 12:30 pm: Grief Workshop
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

### **Wednesday, December 10**

- 10:30 am: Adult Service Luncheon

### **Sunday, December 14**

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

## **Adult Service Project & Luncheon**

**Wednesday, December 10, 10:30 am**

### **Stone Fellowship Hall**

You are invited for a special morning of community service, fellowship, and lunch as we work on projects to support our Local Mission Partner, Friendship Place. From hands-on service to heartwarming connection, this is a wonderful opportunity to love our community and enjoy time together. Questions? Contact Jonathan Edwards ([jedwards@nationalpres.org](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org)).

# 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. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ OPENING SONG

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Arr. Andrews/Scooter

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.

*Hyfrydol*

From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art.

Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.

Born to reign in us forever. Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

You draw the hearts of shepherds, you draw the hearts of kings.

Even as a baby, you were changing ev'rything.

You called me to your kingdom before your lips could speak,

and even as a baby you were reaching out for me.

And now we are awaiting the day of your return

when ev'ry eye will see you as heaven comes to earth.

Until the sky is opened, until the trumpet sounds,

The bride is getting ready, the Church is singing out.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.

From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in thee.

Come, thou long expected King.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Virginia Deacons

Susan Fickling, Dana Granville, and Cheryl Hatch

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Hyfrydol*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.

From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in thee.

Come, thou long expected King.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Dr. Stoltzfus

As we bow in worship before you, Lord, turn the key to my heart's door.

I am too often ungrateful and disobedient, and it has gathered rust.

Forgive me when, in sin, I turn from you and do not hear you knocking.

Lord Jesus, oil the hinges of my heart's door,

that it may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.

Prayer from the Church in New Guinea

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. Stoltzfus

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

Rev. Lisa Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-6  
*Pew Bible Page 834*

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Kristin Franke

Director of Youth & Family 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  
Prepare the Way

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

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. Larsen

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



# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE                      Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"                      Philip Moore  
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP                      Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ HYMN 10                      On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry                      *Winchester New*

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE                      Stephen Ministers  
Linda Botsford, Fred Cogswell, Casandra Morris, and Cindy Ziegler

CHORAL RESPONSE                      J. S. Bach  
Prepare the way for Christ shall come, rejoice in God our Lord.                      From Cantata BWV 151  
Emmanuel shall come to us: Our praise we lift in one accord, our praise in one accord.

CONFESSION OF SIN in unison                      Dr. Stoltzfus  
As we bow in worship before you, Lord, turn the key to my heart's door.  
I am too often ungrateful and disobedient, and it has gathered rust.  
Forgive me when, in sin, I turn from you and do not hear you knocking.  
Lord Jesus, oil the hinges of my heart's door,  
that it may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.  
Prayer from the Church in New Guinea

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;  
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Calls us one and calls us all to gain the everlasting hall.  
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who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary,  
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the world to reveal the kingdom of God is at hand.  
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There the angel's message "He is risen!" heralded the glorious good news of  
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We remember that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and to show us the  
very character of God.  
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Elder Laurie Denham

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Kristin Franke  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry

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SERMON

*God with Us*  
The Promise, the Presence, the Peace  
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Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

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CHORAL RESPONSE

Genevan Psalter

Lo, the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,  
Bidding us to make repentance since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Larsen

OFFERTORY

Prepare Ye

Marc A. Robinson

*Can you hear the voice crying in the wilderness? Can you hear the crying?  
Can you hear the voice crying in the wilderness, saying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."  
Here we join the crying in the wilderness, let us lift up our voices saying,  
"Come, Lord Jesus, now into our lives. Let us prepare the way of the Lord.  
Can you hear the voice crying in the wilderness? Can you hear the crying?  
Can you hear the voice crying in the wilderness, saying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."  
Can you hear the voice crying in the wilderness? Can you hear the crying?*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Larsen

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Choral Meditation

Come, Lord Jesus

Deborah Govenor

Come, Lord Jesus, come and save us from our sin.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come and make us pure within.  
Come into our hearts that we may love you more.  
Come into our lives to dwell forevermore.  
Come, Lord Jesus, your Advent we await;  
Open wide the door, fling wide the heavenly gate.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come and fill us with your light.  
Chase away the darkness, put our fears to flight!  
Come, Lord Jesus, come to set your people free.  
Grant that we may live with you eternally.  
With the saints and angels may we ever sing praises to our Christ:  
Come quickly, King of kings!  
Come, come, come, Lord Jesus, come!

Rev. Larsen

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Bereden väg för Heran

Dr. Hylton

Genevan Psalter

And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Rev. Larsen

Aaron David Miller  
Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Everyone is invited downstairs to Stone Fellowship Hall after worship for Mission Gifts for Christmas.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

[illegible]



# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **All Day:** Mission Gifts for Christmas Event
- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School For Adults
- **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*)

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

*\*The last meeting of this term of Sunday School classes will be 12/14\**



### May we pray for you?

If you would like to request prayer or feel called to join our prayer team, contact [careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org) / 202-537-7540

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*  
Philippians 4:6

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Club 45

**Today, December 7, 5:00 pm**

### Youth House

4th & 5th graders, come grow in faith and friendship through fun games, Bible study and more. This month is our Christmas party! For more information, contact Jill Meek ([jmeek@nationalpres.org](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org)).

## Lessons & Carols Worship

**Sunday, December 21**

**One service at 10:00 am**

A joyful time of music and singing!

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 [chan@nationalpres.org](mailto:chan@nationalpres.org)).

# YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Through your generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ by offering worship that comforts and inspires, classes that deepen faith for all ages, pastoral care that supports in times of difficulty, and service that brings hope to our city and world. As you prepare to make your year-end gift, here are several meaningful ways give:

- Check: Deliver in person or by mail.
- Online: Use the QR code or [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving) to make a one time or recurring gift.
- Text: From your phone, text "NPC" to 833-414-9444.
- Stock: Transfer stock and potentially avoid capital gains taxes on any appreciation.
- IRA: Send required minimum distributions directly to NPC to avoid taxes on the amount.



For help or questions about giving, please contact our Finance Office at 202-537-7495 or email our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine ([lskrine@nationalpres.org](mailto:lskrine@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 Caroline Etgen ([cetgen@nationalpres.org](mailto:cetgen@nationalpres.org)).

## 2026 Generosity Commitments

Cards in the narthex or scan the QR code.



## Prayers

### We mourn:

the passing of Barbara Person.

### We rejoice with:

Brooke and Reed Carlstrom  
on the birth of their son.

### We pray for:

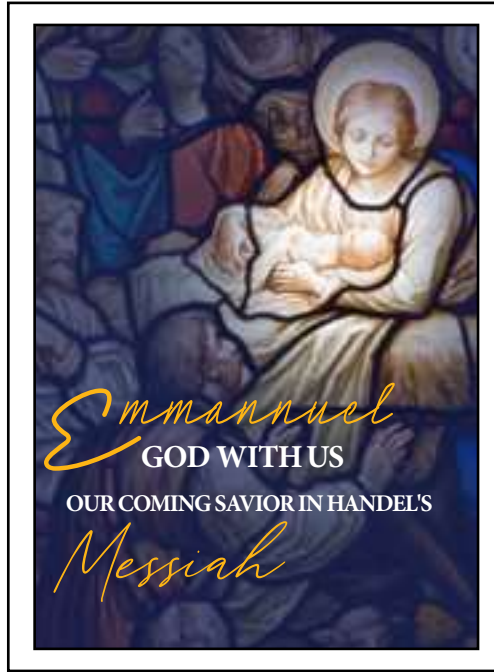
Friendship Place, as they provide care for people experiencing homelessness.

### 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 by  
Annette Quick and Roger Coy  
to the glory of God  
and in loving memory  
of Elizabeth Featherston Quick  
and Howard Roland Quick.



NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FESTIVAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA  
**Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 5 pm**  
*Freewill Offering*



For information go to [www.nationalpres.org/messiah-2025](http://www.nationalpres.org/messiah-2025)  
or call the NPC Music Office at 202-537-7553.

*“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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