

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Staying Connected in Christ*  
11 AM Online Worship, Sunday, November 29, 2020  
**The First Sunday in Advent**  
WE ENTER GOD’S PRESENCE

**PRELUDE**                      “Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us, BWV 645                      J.S. Bach  
Todd Fickley, organ

**CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      Dr. David Renwick

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Capital Project Steering Committee Team Members:  
John Neely, Mary Jo Pera, Diane Stewart, Susie Westrup, John Lawlah

**HYMN** *please sing!*                      Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus                      *Stuttgart*

1. 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.
2. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley

**CONFESSION OF SIN**                      Dr. Renwick

O Lord, we bow in worship before you,  
grateful for the forgiveness you offer to us through Christ Jesus.  
In the daily walk of our earthly life, keep us seriously seeking after you,  
and affectionately walking with you.  
Sometimes we hide the good news that comes to us in Jesus’ birth.  
Sometimes our confidence grows weak and our light fails to shine.  
Come to us, we pray, and when you come,  
may we not be found hiding the treasure you have entrusted to us,  
nor asleep with your light grown dim,  
but confidently waiting and serving you: Our Lord and glorious King.                      from Richard Baxter

## **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** *please sing!*

*Truro*

Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you; here, Lord, abide.

Let us your inner presence feel; your grace and love in us reveal.

## **WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Rev. Donna Marsh

Baptismal Questions

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

**Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing this covenant, God claims us as his own, as we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.**

Baptism

Mitchell Steven Alexandre

*Son of Mary Moll Alexandre and Rodrigue Steve Alexandre*

Lillian Annabelle Wingfield

*Daughter of Patricia Townsley Wingfield and Robert Austin Wingfield*

Prayer of Response

### **SCRIPTURE**

**Galatians 4:1-7**

Willie Piho

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; <sup>2</sup>but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup>So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

### **SERMON**

Sent at the Perfect Time

Dr. Quinn Fox

*While we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:6*

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

James DeJarnette

When the time had fully come, God sent us his only Son,  
Born of Mary, under law, to redeem and save us all.  
*"Abba, Father," calls the Spirit, in our hearts each day and night.*  
*Spread the news that all may hear it: Christ is born, our one true light!*  
Heirs and children of our God, sing with angels, "Gloria!"  
From the fullness of his grace, blessings come throughout our days.  
Jesus our Immanuel, God is with us, all is well!  
Fear not! Good news of great joy lives within this heav'nly boy!

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

An Advent Affirmation

Rev. Donna Marsh

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 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, and born of the Virgin Mary.  
We believe that this good news of great joy which heralded Jesus' birth also points us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to his empty tomb. There the angel's message "He is risen!" heralded the glorious good news of Christ's resurrection.  
We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day, and to offer us new and abundant life.  
We rejoice in the knowledge that one day he will return to rule in righteousness, to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Marsh

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Katie Francis

When God's Time Had Ripened

Alfred V. 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 this 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

**ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

*Regent Square*

Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,  
Praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One:  
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Francis

**HYMN** *please sing!*

Prepare the Way

*Bereden väg för Herran*

1. Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.  
*Refrain*  
*O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*
2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain*
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.  
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. *Refrain*

**BENEDICTION**

Dr. Fox

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

Lord Christ, The Only Son of God, BWV 601

J.S. Bach  
Mr. Fickley

# Let's Stay Connected! Announcements for You

## Floral Dedication

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in memory of the life of Gwendolyn Faye Sisco by Dr. Robert Betz.

## Prayers

International Association for Refugees is a capital campaign partner supporting churches in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Please pray for God to make peace across dividing lines and for opportunities for education.

## Volunteer now to bring the Nativity to life!

We are excited to announce that we will be having an outdoor living nativity this Dec 19. Please [click here](#) for more info, or [click here](#) if you'd like to volunteer!

## Family Advent Wreath Workshop today

Today at 1:00 pm, start the Christmas season right! Join us to make your family's advent wreath to use in your spiritual preparation for Christmas. Pick up your supply kit or join us in person. As space is limited, reservations are required. [Please click here to register.](#)

## Wednesday Evening Worship

Dec 2, 9 & 16 at 7:00 pm, find peace for your soul and celebrate the true meaning of the season in these peaceful, prayerful evening worship services. Join us on Wednesdays in December on our [Worship Live page](#).

## Mission Gifts for Christmas

Are you looking for a meaningful gift for a loved one? Visit our [Mission Gifts page](#) to select from a catalog of donations to organizations that are doing God's work locally and internationally.

## Christmas is coming!

We have put together a wonderful line-up of events to celebrate the birth of our dear Savior. You are invited!

- Dec 2, 9 & 16 at 7:00 pm: Wednesday evening online worship
- Dec 19, 5-7 pm: (In person, outdoors) A Journey to Bethlehem - Living Nativity
- Dec 20, 7:00 pm: Handel's Messiah re-broadcast
- Dec 21, 1:00 pm: U.S. Army Chorus broadcast

## Christmas Eve

- 3:00 & 5:00 pm: (Online) The Christmas Story in Candles
- 7:00 pm: (In person) Outdoor Candlelight Vigil
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm: (Online) Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

## Connect LIVE on Zoom

Immediately following online worship, you are invited to a casual virtual gathering where you can "pass the peace of Christ" with others and enjoy conversation. To join in, simply click the "Connect LIVE" button above the livestream window after the service.

## Prayer LIVE

Would you like to pray with a live person after worship? Please call 12-1 pm. A Pastor, Stephen Minister, or Deacon will be prepared to take your call. If all lines are busy, please leave a voicemail with your name and number and you will receive a return call. Phone: (202) 800-9121.

## Learn & Grow

### Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School

You are invited to join us! You can check out our options for each group here:

- [Adult Sunday School info](#)
- [Children Sunday School info](#)
- [Youth Sunday School info](#)

### Online Grief Support Seminar – *Surviving the Holidays*, Dec 12, 1:00 pm

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially difficult. The GriefShare "*Surviving the Holidays*" program helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future. Lead by Pastor Katie Francis on Dec 12 at 1:00 pm. RSVP by Dec 7th to Liz Martin at [LMartin@NationalPres.org](mailto:LMartin@NationalPres.org).

### Want to know more background for our sermon series?

Dr. Renwick recommends:

- *Paul: A Biography*, by N.T. Wright, 2018
- *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, by F.F. Bruce, 1977
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, by William Barclay
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, by E.M. Blaicklock (out of print, used copies available)

### Re-gathering Volunteers Needed

Step one to re-gathering is to recruit and train volunteers to act as greeters, guides and ushers. If you would like to help please [click here](#) to fill in the form, and we will be in touch.

### Colossians Series Now on YouTube

Dr. Renwick's journey through Paul's letter to the Colossians is now on YouTube. Please [click here](#) to listen to this series and more!

### Your Giving and Commitments Make a Difference: Thank you!

Faith Giving	\$ 2,148,000
Facility Use Income	\$ 891,000
Other Income	\$ 547,000
Total Income	\$ 3,587,000
Total Expenses	\$ 3,754,000
Balance	\$ (167,000)

Not yet made a gift online or by phone? Go to [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving) or text "NPC" to 77977.



### Building Faith Together in 2021

It's not too late to show your support for God's work in and through NPC in 2021! Please [click here](#) to make your commitment. For more information, [click here](#). Or if you have questions, you may contact [lskrine@nationalpres.org](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org) or call (202) 537-7495. As always, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!

### National Presbyterian School

Join us for a weekly small group visit via Zoom. NPS gives special consideration to applications from NPC families for Nursery (Age 3) through Sixth Grade. [Click here](#) for more information visit or contact Admissions Director Katy Harvey, [kharvey@nps-dc.org](mailto:kharvey@nps-dc.org) or (202) 537-7508.

### COVID times are just plain hard!

We are in this together. The Care/Connections staff have prepared resources to use during this time. Use them on your own or share with a friend. Feeling Isolated? Grieving? Anxious? Needing to have a hard conversation with someone? Find these resources on the [Care webpage](#) or contact [Liz Martin](#) or [Leslie Saum](#).