

*Some elements of the service are pre-recorded*

# THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Staying Connected in Christ*

Online Worship, Thursday, December 24, 2020

8:00 PM AND 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

ORDER OF WORSHIP

## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

### PRELUDE

Noël X  
"Variations on a French Carol"

Louis-Claude Daquin  
Todd Fickley, organ

### CHRISTMAS CHIMES

### WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David Renwick

### HYMN *please sing!*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Adeste fideles*

1. 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!  
*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
2. 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*
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

Latin Carol

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Bryce and Katherine Pippert with Charlie, Wynn and Hannah

### CHORAL RESPONSE

Now Is Born

Roger Wagner

*Now is born, the divine Christ Child. Play the musette, play the tuneful oboes!*

French Carol

*Now is born, the divine Christ Child. Let all 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!

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He was born in a stable bare. On bed of straw now he sleeps so soundly.

He was born in a stable bare. Bow in homage to him there.

NPC Chancel Choir

**CONFESSION OF SIN** *in unison*

Dr. Quinn Fox

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 in need of 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 still would 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.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *please sing!*

*In dulci jubilo*

German Carol

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye 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!

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:8-15

Jamie Levinson

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Whose Child Are You?

Dr. Renwick

John 1:1-13, 18

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## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL**

### **RESPONSE**

All Is Well

Michael W. Smith

All is well, all is well, angels and men rejoice!

For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love’s light. Sing *Alleluia!*

All is well, all is well, let there be peace on earth!

Christ is come, go and tell that he is in the manger. Sing *Alleluia!*

All is well, all is well, lift up your voice and sing!

Now is born Emmanuel, born is our Lord and Savior. Sing *Alleluia! All is well!*

NPC Sextet

### **A CHRISTMAS 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.

### **EVENING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Rev. Marsh

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

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!

*Minuit, Chrétiens, c’est l’heure solennelle où l’Homme-Dieu descendit jusqu’à nous,*

*Pour effacer la tache originelle et de son Père arrêter le courroux.*

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*Le monde entire tresaille d'espérance, a cette nuit qui donne Sauveur.*

*Peuple, àgenoux! Attends ta delivrence! Noë! Noël! Voici le Rédempteur!*

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!

Sheri Jackson, soprano

**LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLES**

**HYMN**

**Silent Night**

*Stille Nacht*

Austrian Carol

1. 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!
2. 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!
3. 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.
4. Silent night, holy night! Wond'rous 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. Renwick

**POSTLUDE**

Improvisation on "Stille Nacht"

Mr. Fickley

We are delighted that you have joined us to celebrate the birth of our  
Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas Eve!

You are invited back! Please join us for worship on Sundays at  
11:00 am online and much more!

*For unto 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*

You are welcome here!

Sundays at National are full of inspirational preaching, joyful traditional and contemporary music, Christian education classes for all ages and stages, and time to connect with one another virtually. Below is a sampling of events and programming for the upcoming year\*.

#### Adult Speaker Series

We kick off the January term with some fantastic online speakers starting January 3. Our regular Adult Sunday School classes resume online in February.

#### Youth and Children's Sunday School Resumes January 10

Know and grow in God's word through our online Sunday School each week.

#### Youth Activities

Middle and high school students gather regularly in person as safety allows or online for fun games, meaningful conversation, and Bible study.

#### Vacation Bible School

A week-long half-day Bible camp in July for kids age 4 through 5th grade. Each day includes Bible teaching, music, crafts, games and service projects.

#### Mission and Outreach

We regularly host food drives for our local mission partners to support those in need. We also support refugees and vulnerable populations internationally.

#### Youth Summer Trips

Middle school students will travel to Hilton Head, SC for "*Fun in the Sun*" and high school students will attend "*The Great Escape*" in Johnstown, PA.

#### Care and Support

Those going through a difficult time can receive a listening ear, prayer, and sustained spiritual support in times of transition or grief.

#### Small Groups

Groups gather throughout the week for Bible study, book discussion, prayer, support, and time with each other.

Learn more at [www.nationalpres.org](http://www.nationalpres.org).

\*While we will continue to offer worship online, we will regather when safety allows, following local and CDC recommendations.

# Let's Stay Connected! Announcements for You

## Prayers

We rejoice with the Bradham family who recently welcomed a baby daughter.

Please pray for our many mission partners serving our city and the world. Want to know more? [Click here to visit our local mission partner page](#) or [click here to visit our international mission partner 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.

## Are you new to NPC?

Here are some great steps to get started:

- [Click here](#) to sign our online guestbook to let us know you're here. You can also find the button just above our "watch live" screen.
- [Click here to sign up to get our e-newsletter](#) to be in the loop about all our activities.

## Pathway of Christian Discipleship Online Class

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey on the Pathway of Christian Discipleship. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two half-day virtual Pathway class on Sat, Jan 23 and Sat, Jan 30. For more information please [click here](#).

## Race Matters Series Now on YouTube

Dr. Renwick's discussion of matters of race titled "*God so loved THE WORLD: What to read? How to think? What to do?*" is now on YouTube. Please [click here](#) to listen to this series and more!

## Learn & Grow

### Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School

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

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

### Schedule for Christmas Break

#### Dec 27

- Children's and youth Sunday school resumes Jan 10
- Adult Sunday school resumes Jan 3

#### Jan 3

- Adult January Term speaker series starts

#### Jan 10

- Adult January Term speaker series
- Regular children's Sunday school
- Regular youth Sunday school

### Wednesday Faith Connection

Starting Jan 6, you are invited to join us on our [Worship Live page](#) at 7-7:45 pm, led by Dr. Quinn Fox.

## 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](#).

## **Your December Giving Makes a Difference - Thank you!**

Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship that comforts and inspires, classes and groups for all ages, pastoral care in times of difficulty, and service to those in our city and world.

- Recurring and one-time gifts can be made at [nationalpres.org/giving](https://nationalpres.org/giving).
- Make a gift from your phone by texting the letters NPC to 77977.
- Stock donations. Ask your broker to identify you as the donor. Deliver stock information to Morgan Stanley DTC, Clearing Number: 0015, Client Account number: 504- 041937-387, Client Name: The National Presbyterian Church, Inc., NPC TIN: 53-0196611
- IRA Distributions: Required IRA minimum distributions made directly from your IRA to NPC are not subject to income taxes, which results in savings from a lower after-tax cost of the gift.

Thank you for your generosity!



## **Your Financial Support 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!