

December 24, 2016

Welcome to the NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Leading People to Become
Faithful Followers of Jesus Christ
Together in God's World*

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION
8 P.M. & 10 P.M.

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

John 1:14

Senior Pastor	Dr. David Renwick
Associate Pastors	Dr. Quinn Fox, Rev. Donna Marsh, Rev. Evangeline Taylor
Parish Associate	Dr. Nancy Fox
Music	Dr. Michael Denham (<i>Director</i>), William Neil (<i>Organist</i>) Hilda Gore (<i>Contemporary Music Leader</i>)
Ministry Directors	J. Theodore Anderson (<i>Library, Archives, & Older Adults</i>) Kristin Franke (<i>Youth</i>), Jill Meek (<i>Children</i>) Leslie Saum (<i>Connections</i>), John Turpin (<i>Serve</i>)



We are delighted that you have joined us to celebrate this Christmas Eve.

Please join us tomorrow for Christmas Day worship

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Bring the whole family and dress casually for joyful carols, a short sermon, and a celebration of the “Christmas Story for Children of All Ages.”

Hot chocolate will be served in the Court of Flags.

New Year's Day Worship

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

All are welcome every Sunday!

Full schedule resumes on January 8:

Worship: 9:00, 10:50, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.



WORSHIP

8 & 10 P.M.

Please silence all electronics.

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Greensleeves

Richard Purvis
William Neil, organ

CHIMES AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

8 p.m. Sarah Crumley, Gerry Hall & David Nickels

10 p.m. Martha-Rosalind Stainton, Carolann Haley, and John Neely

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Regent Square

All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship!
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

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

In dulci jubilo

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!

WELCOME

Dr. David Renwick

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

8 p.m. Betty Conn

The Word of the Lord.

10 p.m. J. Theodore Anderson

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Just the Right Gift

Dr. David Renwick

John 1:1-14, 14:5-6, 18:37-38

WE LEAVE TO SERVE IN GOD'S WORLD

CHORAL 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!*

with Michael Ford, tenor

▲ A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

Rev. Evangeline Taylor

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.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Glory to God

G. B. Pergolesi

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Dr. Quinn Fox

Invitation to the Table

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

Gesù Bambino

Pietro A. Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night
was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
and at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced:
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell,
from heav'n above to earth he came that we with him might dwell.

Sheri Jackson, soprano

PRAYER OF RESPONSE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

8 p.m. Rev. Evangeline Taylor

10 p.m. Rev. Donna 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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Dr. David Renwick

We invite everyone to join in lighting Christmas candles.

Choir members 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. David Renwick

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Stille Nacht"

William Neil, organ

UPCOMING EVENTS

Last Minute Gifts that Change the World

Our annual Mission Gifts for Christmas program provides the opportunity to give to charities in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker. *Shop online through Dec. 31: www.nationalpres.org/mission-gifts*

Christian Parenting Talks

*Sundays, Jan. 8-29, 10-10:30 a.m.
Elson Parlor*

Join us for talks specifically for parents, covering topics such as sports, secular culture, family time, and church community. Find insight into keeping your children rooted in faith as they experience youth and adolescence.

- Jan. 8: Faithfully Rooted on the Field – or at Play
- Jan. 15: Faithfully Rooted in “this City”
- Jan. 22: Faithfully Rooted in the Home
- Jan. 29: Faithfully Rooted “in the Pew”

“January Term” Classes for Adults

Sundays, Jan. 8-29, 9:30 a.m.

A variety of three week courses will take place in January, with a closing plenary session on Jan. 29 with Dr. Beck Taylor, President of Whitworth University, who will help us to think about the challenges facing Christian higher education. *Full class listings are available at nationalpres.org/adults*

Bible Reading for 2017

Several Bible reading guides are available as we begin the new year:

- Read the Bible’s “Top 100” greatest passages in 20 weeks
 - Read through the New Testament in a year
 - Read through the entire Bible in a year
- Reading guides and free Bibles are available on the info table (to the right as you exit the Sanctuary) or online: nationalpres.org*

Pathway Membership Class

Saturday, Jan. 21, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Learn more about the Christian faith and membership at NPC, and spend time with pastors and church leaders at the Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class.

Contact Kemet Rakiatu by Jan. 13 to register: KRakiatu@NationalPres.org, 202.537.7578.

Men’s Ministry Habitat Build

Saturday, Jan. 7, 7:30 a.m.

Men’s Breakfast will serve together this month, meeting at the church for a light continental breakfast before carpooling together to a Habitat for Humanity build site. Bring a jacket and be ready to work! No construction experience necessary. *Contact: Michael Maddox, mike.kentm@gmail.com.*

Make Sandwiches for the Homeless

Sunday, Jan. 8, after worship, Stone Hall

All ages can help feed the hungry in our city by making sandwiches for the homeless to be distributed through NPC mission partner Martha’s Table.

Refugee Family Project

Save the date: Saturday, Jan. 14, 2-4 p.m.

Want to help with a new refugee family resettling in the DC area next year? Lutheran Social Services, our agency partner, will be hosting a training seminar.

Prepare for Marriage Course

Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:45 a.m.–3 p.m.

This class is offered once per year and is required for all couples whose weddings will be held at NPC. *Contact Holly Novak by Jan. 30 to register: HNovak@NationalPres.org; 202.537.7527.*

Annual Women’s Retreat

April 28-30, Ellicott City, MD

Guest speaker and author Lucinda Secrest McDowell will encourage us to evaluate all the places in our lives where we can make space for God. *Registration begins in January.*

2017 AT NATIONAL

Sundays at National are full of inspirational preaching and joyful traditional and contemporary music, Christian education classes for all ages and stages, and time to connect with one another. There are many ways we gather to deepen our relationship with Christ.

A sampling of events and programming for the upcoming year:

Sunday Classes for Adults, Youth, and Children

Bible-based opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages and stages.

New Sermon Series: "I Believe"

Beginning January 8, Dr. Renwick will use the Apostles' Creed to explore the essential beliefs of historic Christian faith and their transformative power for our lives today.

Second Sunday Sandwich Making

A monthly family-friendly service project making sandwiches for the homeless in our city.

Youth Trips

High school students travel to the Dominican Republic for a mission trip and middle school students attend a 5-day middle school conference with speakers and musicians.

Concert Series

Music at National presents many performances featuring groups such as Washington Bach Consort and The City Choir of Washington, as well as our own Chancel and Festival choirs.

Small Groups

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

Great Day of Service

A day of service with family-friendly, hands-on service projects here at NPC and in the surrounding community.

Wholeness and Healing Services

Quarterly worship services of quiet reflection and prayer for those going through difficult times or who are looking for Christ's healing touch.

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.

GriefShare

Those experiencing the loss of a loved one meet weekly for support and prayer.

Learn more at www.nationalpres.org

*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

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Year 2 December 24 – January 1

Saturday

Psalms 90; 132
Isaiah 35:1-10
Revelation 22:12-17, 21
Luke 1:67-80

Sunday

Psalms 2; 96
Zechariah 2:10-13
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-36

Monday

Psalms 116; 27
2 Chronicles 24:17-22
Acts 6:1-7
Acts 7:59-8:8

Tuesday

Psalms 34; 121
Proverbs 8:22-30
1 John 5:1-12
John 13:20-35

Wednesday

Psalms 2; 111
Isaiah 49:13-23
Isaiah 54:1-13
Matthew 18:1-14

Thursday

Psalms 96; 97
Isaiah 12:1-6
Revelation 1:1-8
John 7:37-52

Friday

Psalms 93; 89:19-52
Isaiah 25:1-9
Revelation 1:19-20
John 7:53-8:11

Saturday

Psalms 98; 96
Isaiah 26:1-6
2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2
John 8:12-19

Sunday

Psalms 98; 8
Isaiah 62:6-7, 10-12
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 1:18-25



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