

December 24, 2017

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING
COMMUNION
11 A.M.

Of his kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:33

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 (*Director*), William Neil (*Organist*)
Hilda Labrada Gore (*Contemporary Music Leader*)
Ministry Directors J. Theodore Anderson (*Library, Archives, & Older Adults*)
Kristin Franke (*Youth*), Cate McCrory (*Children*)
Leslie Saum (*Connections*), John Marienau Turpin (*Serve*)



Please join us this evening:

- **5 p.m. Family Nativity Worship:** Kids, teens, and adults bring the Bible's nativity story to life in this music-filled narrated reenactment. Families of all ages are invited! *Childcare for children through age 4 will be available from 4:30-6:30 p.m.*
- **9 p.m. Candlelight Worship:** This beautiful evening candlelight service reverently ushers in Jesus' birth.

Join us Next Sunday:

December 31
Worship: 11 a.m.

Full Schedule Resumes January 7:

Worship: 9:00, 10:50, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages:
9:30-10:30 a.m.



WORSHIP

11 A.M.

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

My Spirit Be Joyful
J.S. Bach
William Neil, organ and Woody English and Dennis Edelbrock, trumpet

CHRISTMAS CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

Dick, Mary Jo, Richard, and John Pera

▲ CHORAL INTROIT

He Is Born

Il est né

He is born, the divine Christ-child: Play the musette, play the tuneful oboe!

He 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!

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

We praise you, O Lord, as we remember the coming of your Son our Savior.

We marvel that you have revealed yourself in his Incarnation.

Your thoughts are beyond our most daring imaginations,

yet you have spoken simply and surprisingly for yourself

through the humble birth of a child in Bethlehem.

You have bent low to rescue us from the dark and empty ways in which we have wandered.

Forgive us our sins, and hold us fast, gracious God,

as we behold your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo! Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. David Renwick

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL**

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Dr. Quinn Fox

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 point 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

There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth

Felix Mendelssohn
from *Christus*

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a scepter from Israel rise up,
 and dash in pieces Princes and Nations.

How brightly beams the Morning Star, with sudden radiance from afar, with light and comfort glowing!

Thy Word—Jesus—inward feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing!

based on Numbers 24:17 and Psalm 2:9

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Evangeline Taylor

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Gustav Holst

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.

In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk and a manger of hay;

Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air:

But only his mother in her maiden bliss worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give him my heart. Christina Rossetti

Prayer of Response

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.

▲ HYMN 56 *verses 1-4*

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

▲ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Traditional French Carol

*Please remain if possible for the postlude to be followed by
a special recognition of our beloved organist Bill Neil.*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:

Good will to all from highest heav'n begin and never cease!

Christmas

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ = *Congregation standing as able*

*The flowers throughout the church this morning are given to the glory and praise of God
by the members and friends of the National Presbyterian Church rejoicing in the birth of
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.*

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 now through Dec. 31: nationalpres.org/mission-gifts**

Love Gift Opportunities

Pastor Evangeline Taylor and organist Bill Neil will be retiring from National on Dec. 31. If you would like to contribute to a love gift, please give online at nationalpres.org/giving or write a check to the church, with “Evangeline Love Gift” or “Bill Love Gift” in the memo line.

Men’s Breakfast

**Saturday, Jan. 6, 8–9:30 a.m.
Stone Hall**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast and a presentation by Dr. Quinn Fox on the theme “Becoming What We Love.”
Reserve your place: men@nationalpres.org or call 202.537.7527.

Make Sandwiches for the Homeless

Sunday, Jan. 14, 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.

“January Term” Classes for Adults

Sundays, Jan. 7–28, 9:30 a.m.

A variety of three week courses will take place in January, with a closing plenary session on Jan. 28 with Karen Wright Marsh, Director of Theological Horizons, who will lead us in thinking about “Vintage Saints and Sinners.” *Class descriptions are available at nationalpres.org/adults*

Parent Gatherings: Milestones in Life and Worship

**Sundays in January, 10–10:30 a.m.
Elson Parlor**

Join other parents for coffee, conversation, and a brief study.

- **Jan. 7:** “Talking to our Children about God’s Gift of Sexuality,” Kristin Franke
- **Jan. 14:** “The Bible,” Magruder Dent
- **Jan. 21:** “Communion,” Alison Dickey
- **Jan. 28:** “The Reformation,” Betty Elliott

Pathway Membership Class Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Learn more about the Christian faith, discipleship, and membership at NPC, and spend time with pastors and church leaders. *Contact Kemet Rakiatu by Jan. 17 to register: krakiatu@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7578.*

Parenting Seminar with Mark DeVries

**Saturday, January 27, Jones Hall
5–6 p.m. (talk), 6–7 p.m. (dinner)**

Mark DeVries’ “Stacking the Stands” seminar will provide parents an opportunity to learn the power of weaving a web of life-giving, intergenerational relationships for their children. Parents will walk away from this seminar equipped with the tools and community to “stack the stands” for their children. *RSVP: nationalpres.org/parents*

Prepare for Marriage Course Saturday, March 3, 8:45 a.m.–3 p.m.

Preparing for a marriage takes a lot more than planning a wedding. Learn the skills you need to thrive in your marriage during this one-day course. This class is offered once per year and is required for all couples whose weddings will be held at NPC. *Contact Kristi Teems to register: kteems@nationalpres.org; 202.537.7527.*

2018 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: Roots of the Church

Beginning January 7, Dr. Renwick will lead us in an exploration of the Book of Acts, detailing the life of the first Christians.

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.

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.

Second Sunday Sandwich Making

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

Summer Trips

High School and middle school students each travel to conferences with speakers, worship, and plenty of fun. An intergenerational mission trip travels to the Dominican Republic to serve alongside churches and orphanages.

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.

Great Day of Service and 50 Hour Challenge

A day of service with family-friendly, hands-on service projects here at NPC and in the surrounding community as part of our “50 Hour Challenge,” encouraging everyone in the congregation serve 50 hours this year.

Youth

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

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

December 24 – December 31

Sunday

Psalms 24; 110
Isaiah 60:1-6
Galatians 3:23-4:7
Matthew 1:18-25

Monday

Psalms 2; 96
Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-36

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

Psalms 96; 97
2 Samuel 23:13-17b
2 John 1:1-13
John 2:1-11

Saturday

Psalms 93; 89:19-52
1 Kings 17:17-24
3 John 1-15
John 4:46-54

Sunday

Psalms 98; 96
1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28
Colossians 1:9-20
Luke 2:22-40

PRAYERS

We grieve the death of:

Coleman Bean on December 17, 2017

We pray for:

Marcia Bini Anne Black Sarah O'Keiff

How can we pray for you? nationalpres.org/prayer



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