

December 24, 2017

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT

9 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 (*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*)



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

Please join us for worship next Sunday, December 31:

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

You are welcome every Sunday!

Full schedule resumes on January 7:

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

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30–10:30 a.m.



WORSHIP

9 P.M.

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Pastorale: *Jesu Bambino*

Pietro Jon
William Neil, organ

CHRISTMAS CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David Renwick

▲ 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!*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *please remain seated*

Gerri Hall and David Nickels, Joanna Jones and Ethan Greene

CHORAL INTROIT

French Carol

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel, of our Lord and Savior we glad tidings tell.
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel!
Angels from on high say, "Shepherds, come and see. He is born in Bethlehem, a blessed Lamb for thee."
Shepherds found the child lying in a manger stall. Joseph standing by, and Mary mother mild.
Magi oriental journeyed from afar. They did come to greet him, 'neath the shining star.
Glory to God, for Christ the King is born! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel!

with Anastasia Pike, harp

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 pray.
Capture our hearts and minds with the quiet splendor
that transformed a manger into heaven's throne.
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;

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!

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!

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 2:8-16

Ellie Heginbotham

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Real Good News!

Dr. David Renwick

Luke 2:21, 25-33

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

▲ HYMN 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

▲ 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.

SOLO

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Appalachian Carol

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.

All the evil folks on earth sleep in feathers at their birth.

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.
Have you heard about our Jesus? Have you heard about his fate,
How his mother went to the stable on that Christmas eve so late?
Winds were blowin', cows were lowin', stars were glowin', glowin'...

Sheri Jackson, soprano with Heather Green, violin

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Carol

Still, still, still! One can hear the falling snow.

For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star is vigil keeping.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

The night is peaceful all around you; close your eyes, let sleep surround you.

Pray, pray, pray for the joyous day to come,

While shepherds and wise men in number see the Christ child as he slumbers. Alleluia...

CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

Regent Square

Praise and honor to the Father, praise to God's incarnate Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit: God th' Eternal Three in One;
One in grace and one in glory while unending ages run.

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

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Stille Nacht"

William Neil, organ

▲ = *Congregation standing as able*

*The flowers throughout the church 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**

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.

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

“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*

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.

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.

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.*

Read the Bible in 2018!

- 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
- Free reading guides and Bibles are available on the info table (to the right as you exit the Sanctuary) or online: nationalpres.org*

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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