

December 24, 2015

# Welcome to the NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

*"...no place for them in the inn."*

Luke 2:7

Dr. David Renwick, *Senior Pastor* · Dr. Quinn Fox, *Associate Pastor*  
Rev. Donna Marsh, *Associate Pastor* · Rev. Evangeline Taylor, *Associate Pastor*  
*Parish Associates:* Dr. Nancy Fox and Dr. Donald Wilson

Dr. Michael Denham, *Director of Music Ministries*  
William Neil, *Organist* · Hilda Gore, *Contemporary Music Leader*  
*Ministry Directors:* J. Theodore Anderson (Library & Older Adults), Jill Meek (Children)  
Leslie Saum (Connections), McLane Stone (Youth), John Turpin (Serve)



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

Sunday, December 27  
One service at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Sermon:  
“Born to Be Glorified and Praised”  
Rev. Evangeline Taylor

— All are welcome every Sunday! —

Full schedule resumes on January 3:

**8:30, 9:15, 10:50, 11 a.m.**



# WORSHIP

8 & 10 P.M.

*Kindly turn off your cell phone and other electronic devices.*

## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

William Neil, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David Renwick

▲ HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

8 p.m. Chancel Choir Section Leaders

10 p.m. Leslie and Rick Saum and Renee and David Dragics

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Regent Square*

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION *in unison*

Rev. Donna Marsh

Gracious and merciful God,

We remember how your Son quietly entered human history  
on that first Christmas Eve.

We come before you in wonder, gratitude, 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.

If earth were 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

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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

8 p.m. Susan O'Banion

The Word of the Lord.

*pew Bible pp. 832-833*

10 p.m. Betty Conn

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

No Room in the Inn

Dr. David Renwick

John 1:1-14

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

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

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, Chrétien, 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.*

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

*Peuple, à genoux! Attends ta délivrance! Noël! 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 and Michael Denham, tenor

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

8 p.m. Rev. Donna Marsh

10 p.m. Rev. Evangeline Taylor

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

*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

▲ Congregation standing, as able



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## Looking for God in *Downton Abbey*

**Sunday, January 3, 9:30 a.m., Stone Hall**

Dr. Quinn Fox will reflect on themes of Christian faith and the Church that are present, implicit, and conspicuously absent, in episodes from the first five seasons of the drama of the aristocratic Crawleys and their servants in post-Edwardian England.

This presentation begins “January Term” in Adult Sunday School – a variety of three-week classes book-ended by plenary presentations.

*Learn more: [nationalpres.org/adults](http://nationalpres.org/adults), or pick up a brochure on the information table.*

## Christian Parenting: Talks for Parents

**Sundays in January, beginning Jan. 3  
9:30–10:30 a.m., Jones Hall (School Gym)**

Join us for 5 weeks of talks specifically for parents, covering topics such as digital media, stress, anxiety, friendships, achievement, and keeping the faith. Find insight into staying Biblically rooted as a parent as your children experience youth and adolescence.

## NPC’s Membership Class: Pathway of Christian Discipleship

**Saturday, Jan. 23, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**

Learn more about the Christian faith and membership at NPC, and spend time with church leaders at the Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class. *Contact Kemet Rakiatu to register: [KRakiatu@NationalPres.org](mailto:KRakiatu@NationalPres.org) or 202.537.7578.*

## Make Sandwiches for the Homeless

**Sunday, Jan. 10, Stone Hall  
10:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.**

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. Together we can make 800 sandwiches!

## Last Minute Gifts that Change the World

Our annual Mission Gifts for Christmas event provides the opportunity to give to charities in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker. Last year we raised just over \$59,000 for charities through Mission Gifts. We have already raised over \$57,000 this year— **let’s see how much more we can give to missions by the end of the year!** *Shop online through Dec. 27: [www.nationalpres.org/mission-gifts](http://www.nationalpres.org/mission-gifts)*

## Bible Reading for 2016

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 information table (to the right as you exit the Sanctuary) or on our website, [www.nationalpres.org](http://www.nationalpres.org).*

## Book Discussion: “Augustine’s Confessions”

**Thursdays, January 7–February 4  
7:15 p.m., Elson Parlor**

Dr. Quinn Fox will lead a discussion on the final four chapters of this classic book. If you were not able to join us for the fall you will not be behind – the material is entirely new. Copies of the book are available for sale in the church bookstore. *More info: [grow@nationalpres.org](mailto:grow@nationalpres.org) or call 202.537.7527.*

## Men’s Breakfast

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

Meet other men at NPC for a hearty breakfast and a presentation by **Dr. Michael Denham**, NPC’s Director of Music Ministries. *Reserve your place: [Men@NationalPres.org](mailto:Men@NationalPres.org) or call 202.537.7527.*

## Business & Professional Women’s Guild Luncheon

**Sat., Jan. 9, 11:45 a.m.–2 p.m., Stone Hall**  
All women are invited for lunch and time with one another. *Contact Jo Schoolfield, to reserve lunch (\$15): 301.598.6284.*

# 2016 AT NATIONAL

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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.

## ***Second Sunday Sandwich Making***

A monthly family-friendly service project making sandwiches for the homeless in our city. Sandwiches are distributed via McKenna's Wagon, the mobile soup kitchen of NPC mission partner, Martha's Table.

## ***Concert Series***

Music at National presents many performances throughout the year featuring groups such as Washington Bach Consort, The City Choir of Washington, and Washington Master Chorale, as well as National's own Chancel & 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.

## ***Lenten Vespers***

One hour services on Wednesday evenings during Lent feature music, prayer, preaching, and Communion, as a time of mid-week spiritual refreshment.

## ***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 about how you can connect with National!*

[www.nationalpres.org](http://www.nationalpres.org)

202.537.0800

*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 3

### Thursday

Psalms 18:1-20; 62  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Galatians 3:23-4:7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### Monday

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

### Friday

Psalms 98; 8  
Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12  
Revelation 19:11-16  
Matthew 1:18-25

### Friday

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

### Tuesday

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

### Saturday

Psalms 48; 29  
1 Kings 19:1-8  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:1-14

### Saturday

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

### Wednesday

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

### Sunday

Psalms 111; 15  
1 Kings 3:5-14  
Colossians 3:12-17  
John 6:41-47

### Sunday

Psalms 34; 121  
1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28  
Colossians 1:9-20  
Luke 2:22-40

### Thursday

Psalms 98; 96  
1 Kings 3:5-14  
James 4:13-17, 5:7-11  
John 5:1-15



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