

December 27, 2015

Welcome  
to the  
NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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

CHRISTMASTIDE

*The shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God for all they had seen,  
as it had been told them.*

Luke 2:20

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)



# TODAY AT NATIONAL

## Mission Gifts for Christmas: Last Day to Give!

[www.nationalpres.org/mission-gifts](http://www.nationalpres.org/mission-gifts)

It's not too late to make a difference for charities in our city and world! *Shop online through today: [nationalpres.org/mission-gifts](http://nationalpres.org/mission-gifts)*

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 day!

## Chrismon Tree

Did you know each of the ornaments on the tree in the Court of Flags represent a symbol of Christ or the Christian life? *Pick up a brochure in the Court of Flags to learn more about these symbols and their meaning.*

## WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

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### December Food Donations: Unsweetened Cereal

Please bring boxes of unsweetened cereal for mission partner Martha's Table to the baskets outside of Stone Hall, or upstairs at the information table. *You can also help by delivering these monthly donations to Martha's Table; contact: Nancy Chapman Colb, [nancy@nchapman.com](mailto:nancy@nchapman.com).*

Beginning next Sunday, we will be collecting canned tuna during the month of January.

### Volunteer at Ingleside Retirement Community

**Enable retirement community residents to attend worship services** by assisting in wheeling residents from their rooms to services at Ingleside on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. Volunteers would serve on a rotating basis the first Sunday of each month. *Contact: Rebekah Liu at [Paulreb3@msn.com](mailto:Paulreb3@msn.com).*

# 11 A.M. WORSHIP

*Sanctuary*

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*Kindly turn off all electronic devices.*

## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

William Neil, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ HYMN 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Gloria*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Glo---ria in excelsis Deo!*

*Glo---ria in excelsis Deo!*

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Lord Jesus, your birth means nothing unless we are born again –  
born from above.

Raise us, O Savior, that we may bow before your glorious throne.

Fill us with a true sense of your grace and glory,  
which prevail against all darkness and sin,  
even the sinful shadows of our own hearts.

In the afterglow of this holy season, forgive us once again.

May we see afresh your coming among us,  
and the way of salvation you open before us.

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 we 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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

*Children grades K-2 may go to the children's church program in Church Room 106, returning after the sermon.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Quinn Fox

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

The Word of the Lord.

*pew Bible p. 833*

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

## SOLO RESPONSE

## How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

Alice Parker &amp; Robert Shaw

How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far? Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?

Can we see the little child, is he within? If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there: Ox, ass, or sheep? May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?

If we touch his tiny hand, will he awake? Will he know we've come so far just for his sake?

God in his mother's arms, babes in the byre sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

Frances Chesterton

Dr. Michael Denham

## ▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## An Advent Affirmation

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 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.

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

## OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

The night, the air were filled with joy as angels sang among the heav'ns.

I stood before a newborn boy: Who was this wondrous child there giv'n?

We'd left our flocks out in the fields, and answered heralds' sounding call.

They cried, "Emmanuel has come!" He lay in lowly cattle stall.

I crept into the stable cold; but for straw, the manger bare.

Was this the One they wrote of old? Was this our true Messiah – there?

To Bethlehem he was to come (and it was there he lay his head);

Near you O great Jerusalem, in Ephratha the prophet said.

It was fulfilled, he'd come to earth: God with us there, O Israel!

The shepherd, rapt, beheld his birth, with ox, and ass, and Gabriel!

What mystery this that I should see the passing of that holy hour:

A Child, the Savior come for me: O Lord be mine, for I am yours!

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

*All the evil folk 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', glowin'...

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

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

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

▲ CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY All Glory Be to God on High  
All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:  
Goodwill to all from highest heav'n begin and never cease!

*Winchester Old*

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

▲ HYMN 29 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Go Tell It*

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ SOLO RESPONSE

God in his mother's arms, babe in the byre sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

▲ Congregation standing, as able

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God.

**Take flowers to brighten someone's day.** If you are planning to visit someone who is ill or home-bound, pick up a vase with fresh flowers on the table outside of Elson Parlor to bring some cheer!

**Chapel prayers after worship.** A pastor, elder or deacon, and Stephen Minister will be available in the chapel to pray with you privately about your concerns and celebrations.

**Need assistance hearing during the service?** Assisted listening receivers are available at the information table, to the right as you exit the sanctuary. These can be used in any location in the sanctuary. *Please remember to return the receivers after the service.*

## PRAYERS

*Please pray for:*

The members and friends of National Presbyterian Church.

*Prayer requests: [nationalpres.org/prayer](http://nationalpres.org/prayer)*

*There will be no GriefShare today; the program will resume January 3.*

## Help NPC Fulfill Its Mission in 2015

Want to make a gift before December 31?

### How to Give

- **Recurring gifts** can be set up at NPC Online (<http://bit.ly/NPC-Online>)
- **Easy one-time gifts** can be made at [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving)
- **Stock donations.** Ask your broker to identify you as the donor and to deliver stock information to Morgan Stanley Smith Barney:  
DTC Clearing Number: 0015    Client Account number: 504-041937-677  
NPC TIN: 53-0196611    Client Name: The National Presbyterian Church, Inc.

**Thank you for your prayerful and generous support!**

*Questions? Contact NPC's Finance Manager, Joe Abatemarco:*

*JAbatemarco@NationalPres.org, or 202.537.7484.*

## NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

*The full worship and Sunday School schedule resumes next Sunday.*

**8:30 a.m.:** Chapel worship

**9:30 a.m.:** Sunday school for all ages

**10:50 a.m.:** Jones Hall (School Gym) worship

**9:15 & 11 a.m.:** Sanctuary worship

### "January Term" Classes for Adults

*Sundays, January 3–31, 9:30 a.m.*

Next Sunday, "January Term" begins in Adult Sunday School. We'll begin and end the month with plenary presentations. January 3 will feature a consideration of Christian faith in popular culture by Associate Pastor Quinn Fox: "**Looking for God in *Downton Abbey*.**"

A variety of three week courses will follow, with a closing plenary session on January 31 with Peter Wehner – a committed Christian, well-known journalist, and Senior Fellow at The Ethics and Public Policy Center—who will help us to think about the increasing challenge our culture presents to following Jesus Christ faithfully.

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

### Firmly RootED: Talks for Christian 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.

- Jan. 3: Biblically Rooted in the Teen Years
- Jan. 10: Biblically Rooted in the Digital World
- Jan. 17: Biblically Rooted in Christ
- Jan. 24: Biblically Rooted in Church
- Jan. 31: Biblically Rooted in the Home

# EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 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*

Dr. Michael Denham, NPC's Director of Music Ministries, will speak to us this month on the topic "Don't Pull the Plug: God's Power in Our Lives." Meet other men at NPC for a hearty breakfast and a presentation. *Reserve your place: [Men@NationalPres.org](mailto:Men@NationalPres.org) or call 202.537.7527.*

## Business & Professional Women's Guild Luncheon

*Saturday, Jan. 9, 11:45 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Stone Hall*

As we begin the new year, Hilda Gore will help us take a close look at how to be good stewards of the bodies God has given us, sharing practical information from her recent trip to Kenya with the Weston A. Price Foundation. *Contact Jo Schoolfield, to reserve lunch (\$15): 301.598.6284.*

## Second Sunday Sandwich Making

*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!

## Wednesday Women Bible Study & Prayer Group

*Wednesday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Church Rooms 110/111 & 105*

Women are invited for prayer, followed by a study of Abraham and his journey to Mt. Moriah, followed by writing cards for those in need of care. *Contact: Mildred Wheat 703.931.1490.*

## 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.*

## Be Healthy in 2016!

*Saturdays beginning Jan. 2, 8:30 a.m.  
Agencies Building Lower Level*

Come to Body & Soul boot camp and be challenged physically through a variety of exercises, and encouraged spiritually through the music and prayer. A modest fee covers the 8-week session. *Questions? Contact Hilda Gore, [HGore@NationalPres.org](mailto:HGore@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 27 – January 3*

### **Sunday**

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

### **Monday**

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

### **Tuesday**

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

### **Wednesday**

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

### **Thursday**

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

### **Friday**

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

### **Saturday**

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

### **Sunday**

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



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