

December 17, 2017

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Mary gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Luke 2:7

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 Labrada Gore (<i>Contemporary Music Leader</i>)
Ministry Directors	J. Theodore Anderson (<i>Library, Archives, & Older Adults</i>) Kristin Franke (<i>Youth</i>), Cate McCrory (<i>Children</i>) Leslie Saum (<i>Connections</i>), John Marienau Turpin (<i>Serve</i>)



TODAY AT NATIONAL

Pastor Evangeline Taylor: Thank You & Reception

10:15 a.m., Stone Hall

Come celebrate and thank Evangeline prior to her retirement on Dec. 31. We will hear the inspiring way God has used her and thank her for the many ways she has ministered to our congregation.

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.

Moldova Prayer

12:30 p.m., Church Room 107

All are invited for a time of prayer for our NPC Moldova mission partners.

Music at National

4:30 p.m., Sanctuary

The City Choir presents *The Holly and the Ivy: Music for Christmas*. Tickets available at thecitychoirofwashington.org

Mission Gifts for Christmas Stone Hall

Today is the final Sunday to enjoy the engaging displays, music, and refreshments of Mission Gifts for Christmas! Your gifts enable the purchase of much needed supplies, food, tools, services, and more for mission organizations around the world. Children can join in the joy at special kid-friendly displays. *Shop online through Dec. 31 at nationalpres.org/mission-gifts*

Children in Worship

If you have a little one with you in worship, pick up a new **"Worshiper in Training" bag outside the Sanctuary!** The bags are filled with fun things to help children engage in worship. Please return the bags after the service.

Christmas Decorations

The ornaments on the Chrismon tree in the Court of Flags represent over 100 symbols of Christ and the Christian life. *Pick up a brochure in the Court of Flags to learn more!*

Pecan & Fruitcake Sales

Purchase your Christmas pecans and fruitcakes at the bookstore today!

WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

Sunday School

Sunday School will resume January 7, 2018

Nursery (Babies–Age 4)

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Children's Choirs (K–5th grade)

Sundays, 10:00–10:30 a.m., School Bldg

Youth Choir (6–12th grade)

Sundays, 12:15–1 p.m., Agencies Room 105

"Across the Aisle" Young Professionals

12:15 p.m., Church Room 105

All young professionals are invited for weekly lunch and conversation.

December Donations: Canned Tuna

Please bring donations for mission partner Martha's Table to the baskets outside of Stone Hall, or upstairs at the info table.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by NPC's Stephen Ministers in appreciation of Reverend Evangeline Taylor's guidance and support of the Stephen Ministry program.

9 & 11 A.M. WORSHIP

Sanctuary

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Noel in D Major

Louis Claude Daquin

William Neil, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Evangeline Taylor

▲ HYMN 59

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Christmas

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

9 a.m. David and Jonelle Detlor with Noah and Drew

11 a.m. Mike and Betsy Burke

CHORAL RESPONSE Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Ermuntre dich

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.

You shepherds, shudder not with fright, but hear the angel's warning.

This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be;

The power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Merciful and loving God,

by your generous gift, Jesus Christ our Lord humbled himself to raise us up.

He became fully human,

that he might lift the lowly.

He was born as one of us,

to restore us in your image.

Forgive our sins, gracious God.

Grant us the inheritance of the meek,

And lead us at last to rejoice with all your saints in glory.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

▲ 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!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Donna Marsh

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 49 *verses 1 & 2*

Once in Royal David's City

*Irby**Please remain seated. Children come forward during singing of hymn.*

A TIME FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS

Hymn 24

Scene I The Wise Men

Away in a Manger *verse 1*

Scene II The Wise Men and Herod

Away in a Manger *verse 2*

Scene III The Shepherds

Away in a Manger *verse 3*

Scene IV The Stable

Away in a Manger *verse 1*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

▲ 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 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.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

sung by Lisa Williamson

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

Alice Parker

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

English Carol

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.

▲ ADVENT 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.

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

St. Louis

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel!

Louis Claude Daquin

10:15 a.m., Stone Hall (see pg. 2)

▲ Congregation standing, as able

SHARE IN THE JOY OF FAITHFUL GIVING!

Help NPC fulfill its mission in 2017 and 2018

This year your giving supported an increase in mission giving, including to our new Refugee Family Project; provided the resources and staffing for flourishing small group and family ministries; and made possible our glorious services of worship in the Sanctuary and Jones Hall. ***Your prayerful financial support in December is vital to complete the year well.*** Please consider a generous gift to Christ's ministry in and through National.

Year End Giving

Faith Giving through December 10, 2017

Annual Budget	\$2,850,000
Given to Date	\$2,362,000
Still Needed	\$488,000

- **Recurring and one-time gifts** can be made at nationalpres.org/giving
- **Stock donations.** Ask your broker to identify you as the donor and to deliver stock information to Morgan Stanley Smith Barney:
Deliver to: Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
DTC Clearing Number: 0015
Client Account number: 504-041937-387
Client Name: The National Presbyterian Church, Inc.
NPC TIN: 53-0196611
- Check with your financial advisor or tax attorney about changing tax regulation decisions for 2018.
- Shop on **Amazon Smile** (www.smile.amazon.com), using "The National Presbyterian Church, Inc." as your designated charity and NPC receives a donation of .05% of the price of your eligible purchases.

*Thank you for your prayerful and generous support!
Questions? Contact Business Manager, Leah Skrine,
lskrine@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7484.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Music Luncheon

Monday, Dec. 18

11:30 a.m., Stone Hall

All are invited for an Adult Fellowship Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. followed by “A Musical Christmas at National” program at 1 p.m. featuring Ethan Greene, Sheri Jackson, Michael Denham, and Joanna Jones. *For lunch reservations (\$15 in advance; \$20 at the door), call 202.537.7529 or sign up today in Stone Hall.*

Need a Christmas Dinner?

Christmas dinner gifts cards are available for NPC families in need. *Contact our Care office to learn more: 202.537.7540.*

Christmas Floral Dedications

Honor a loved one while beautifying our church through a floral dedication! Donations may be made payable to “NPC Flower Ministry.” *Envelopes for donations are at the information table.*

Make Your Commitment Today!

Your financial commitment enables our church to plan wisely for the year ahead!

You may make your commitment:

- By placing a commitment card from the information table into the offering plate
- Online at nationalpres.org/giving

Pathway Membership Class

Saturday, January 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 January 17 to register: krakiatu@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7578.*

Serve this Season

• Ushers

Dates are flexible, and ushers are needed at all worship services.

Contact: Walt Hampton, jesse506@verizon.net, or talk to any usher on a Sunday morning.

• Welcome Christmas Guests

Hand out Christmas ornaments to our guests on Christmas Eve. *Contact: Leslie Saum, lsaum@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7494.*

• A/V Team

Bring the Gospel to those around the world through video and audio production as part of our A/V Team. Our current volunteers span all ages, and training is provided! *Contact: Bill McNett, bmcnett@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7576.*

Record your hours at nationalpres.org/50

Facilities Master Plan

Did you know...

- Over 510 individuals attended a focus group in September and October.
- The Facilities Master Planning Team has been carefully reviewing all your comments from the focus groups.
- The Readiness Assessment report showed that the plan presented by the Facilities Master Planning Team had broad support within the congregation.
- The Session approved entering a capital campaign to fund the proposed building improvements to NPC.
- A campaign will kick off in early 2018.

Copies of the Readiness Assessment report are available in the libraries and at NPC Online.

WELCOME TO NATIONAL!

We are so glad you are here today.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Year 1

December 17–24

Sunday

Psalms 24; 110

Amos 9:11-15

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

John 5:30-47

Monday

Psalms 122; 67

Genesis 3:8-15

Revelation 12:1-10

John 3:16-21

Tuesday

Psalms 33; 94

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Titus 1:1-16

Luke 1:1-25

Wednesday

Psalms 50; 17

1 Samuel 2:1b-10

Titus 2:1-10

Luke 1:26-38

Thursday

Psalms 18:1-20; 62

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Titus 2:11-3:8

Luke 1:39-56

Friday

Psalms 102; 16

2 Samuel 7:18-29

Galatians 3:1-14

Luke 1:57-66

Saturday

Psalms 90; 72

Jeremiah 31:10-14

Galatians 3:15-22

Matthew 1:1-17

Sunday

Psalms 24; 110

Isaiah 60:1-6

Galatians 3:23-4:7

Matthew 1:18-25

If you are with us for the first time, welcome! Our prayer is that you will find a spiritual home here – a home where the love and presence of Jesus Christ are experienced as we gather in community to worship God. Classes and groups for all ages are offered for us to better know God and one another. Preaching and teaching equip us to act as Christ's light in the world – serving and caring for one another through prayer, support, and service projects.

Connections Ambassadors, wearing blue badges, are here to welcome you and answer any questions. Come downstairs to Stone Hall after worship to meet others and enjoy coffee and cookies.

Welcome packets and information | Available at the information table to the right as you exit the sanctuary.

Childcare | Available 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. for infants through age four in the main church building ground floor, rooms 16 and 7. *Children are always welcome in worship!*

Prayers after worship | A pastor, elder or deacon, and Stephen Minister will be available to pray with you about your concerns and celebrations.

Accessible worship | Assisted listening receivers and large print bulletins and hymnals are available at the information table to the right as you exit the sanctuary.

Pick up a bud vase | Available outside of Elson Parlor to take with you if you are planning to visit someone who is ill or home-bound.

In order to share God's word with the world, our services are video recorded and broadcast online. If you do not wish to appear on camera, seating is available in the balcony and back six pews of the sanctuary.

PRAYERS

We pray for:

Marcia Bini Anne Black

We pray for our mission partners, including:

International Justice Mission, a global Christian human rights mission seeking to prove that with God's help, the poor can get justice. *Mission prayer calendars are available in the information racks.*

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



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