



December 23, 2018

# Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*

Isaiah 60:1

Jesus said:

*"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you"*

John 20:21



Senior Pastor	Dr. David Renwick
Associate Pastors	Dr. Quinn Fox, Rev. Donna Marsh, Dr. Joyce Emery
Parish Associate	Dr. Nancy Fox, Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Music	Dr. Michael Denham ( <i>Director</i> ), Todd Fickley ( <i>Organist</i> ) Joanna Jones ( <i>Contemporary Music Leader</i> )
Ministry Directors	J. Theodore Anderson ( <i>Library, Archives, &amp; 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

## Winter Warmth: Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated boots, coats, and winter wear to the Winter Warmth drive this year. We collected 31 boxes and bags this year for our mission partners Friendship Place and Central Union Mission. Friendship Place was able to help 250 people prepare for the winter at their annual Winter Warmth day. Your generosity is warming hearts and bodies alike!

## Christmas Decorations

The Creche by the Chapel entrance contains hand sculpted figures from Spain and is a gift from the Norment family. 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!*

## Say "Yes" to Living Generously

***Complete your 2018 commitment and make your 2019 commitment today!***

**You may make your commitment by:**

- Placing your commitment card (available on the information table) in the offering plate
- Filling out your commitment securely online at [www.nationalpres.org/giving](http://www.nationalpres.org/giving)

## Last Minute Gifts that Change the World

Mission Gifts for Christmas gives you the opportunity to give to charities in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker. ***Shop online through December 31: [nationalpres.org/mission-gifts](http://nationalpres.org/mission-gifts)***

## Pecan and Fruitcake Sales

Purchase your Christmas pecans and fruitcakes at the bookstore today!

## WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

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### December Food Collection: Canned Fruit

You may drop off donations of canned fruit at baskets at the information table and outside of Stone Hall.

### Sunday School

Resumes January 6th

### Today's Flowers

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.

### Nursery (Babies–Age 4)

***10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.***

***Main Church Bldg. Rooms 7/8 & 16***

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

11 A.M.

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE                                      Canonic Variations on                                      J.S. Bach  
"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," BWV 769  
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP                                      Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 59                                      While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks                                      *Christmas*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE                                      David and Nicole Skinner  
with Katie and Bobby

CHORAL RESPONSE                                      *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*  
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 dark and empty ways.  
Forgive us and hold us fast, gracious God,  
as we behold your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

SILENT CONFESSION AND 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

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-3, 61:1-4

Elder Lora Tredway

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### MESSAGE

Great Mission

Dr. David Renwick

### 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 25

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*

### HYMN 49 verses 3 & 4

Once in Royal David's City

*Irby*

## 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 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

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

Dr. Joyce Emery

Here, Mid the Ass and Oxen Mild Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

Here, mid the ass and oxen mild, sleep, sleep, sleep my little child; French Carol

*Thousand seraphim, thousand cherubim come from heav'n above to guard the Lord of love.*

Here, where sweet flow'rs their fragrance bring, sleep, sleep, sleep my little King;

*Thousand seraphim, thousand cherubim come from heav'n above to guard the Lord of love.*

Here, where the shepherds' search is done, sleep, sleep, sleep my little son;

*Thousand seraphim, thousand cherubim come from heav'n above to guard the Lord of love.*

King of angels, sleep! with Joanna Jones, soprano

▲ 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

▲ HYMN 29

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Go Tell It*

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Richard Elliott

▲ Congregation standing, as able

**See You Tomorrow!  
Christmas Eve at National**

*Monday, December 24*

5:00 p.m. // Family Nativity Worship

8:00 p.m. // Candlelight & Communion Worship

10:00 p.m. // Candlelight Worship

# SHARE IN THE JOY OF FAITHFUL GIVING!

*Help NPC fulfill its mission in 2018 and 2019*

Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through:

- worship that comforts, inspires, and challenges;
- programs for all ages that keep us growing in faith;
- pastoral care that is always present in times of illness, difficulty, or grief; and
- service to those in our city in need of food, shelter, and support, and to those in the world who need to know Christ.

*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 16, 2018

Annual Budget	\$2,947,000
Given to Date	\$2,492,494
Still Needed	\$454,506

- **Recurring and one-time gifts** can be made at [nationalpres.org/giving](http://nationalpres.org/giving).
- **Make a gift from your phone** by texting the letters NPC to 77977.
- **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
- **IRA Distributions:** If you are 70 ½ or older and required to take an IRA minimum distribution, donations made directly from your IRA to NPC are not subject to income taxes which results in savings from a lower after-tax cost of the gift.

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Christmas Eve at National: *TOMORROW, December 24*

- **5:00 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 is also available during the service for children age 4 and under.*
- **8:00 p.m. // Candlelight & Communion Worship**  
Carols will be sung and Communion will be served as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.
- **10:00 p.m. // Candlelight & Carols Worship**  
This beautiful evening candlelight service reverently ushers in Jesus' birth.

## Submit 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.*

## Next Sunday Worship *Sunday, December 30*

**One service at 11 a.m., Sanctuary**

Dr. Quinn Fox will preach "A Song of Joy... In a Foreign Land" at one worship service at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, January 5, 8–9:30 a.m.  
Stone Hall**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast and a presentation by Derek Hoffman on the theme "Foreign Service, Kingdom Service." *Reserve your place: men@nationalpres.org or call 202.537.7527.*

## Service of Wholeness and Healing with Thanksgiving *Sunday, January 6*

**Service: 1 p.m., Chapel**

**Light lunch: 12:15 p.m., Chapel Narthex**

Come and praise God for many answers to prayer as the new year begins. Testimonies will be shared and we will pray for others in need. The Revs. Dr. Nancy Fox and Dr. Joyce Emery will co-preside.

## "Faithful Families" Parenting Seminar

**Saturday, January 12, Stone Hall  
5–6 p.m. (talk), 6–7 p.m. (dinner)**

For most families, life is moving at breakneck speed. It is no surprise that most parents are finding it difficult to build a rhythm for spiritual conversations and practices into their families. Guest speaker **Rev. Mark DeVries** will offer a fresh and reasonable approach to building faithful families in a frantic world.

*Childcare is available with RSVP by January 5: [nationalpres.org/parents](http://nationalpres.org/parents).*

## Author Talk: "The Self-Driven Child"

**Tues. Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m., Jones Hall**

Bill Stixrud and Ned Johnson will lead a lively discussion of "The Self Driven Child" and share tips to help children develop brains that are wired for resiliency and ready to take on new challenges.

*This symposium is **hosted by National Presbyterian School** and more information may be found on [nps-dc.org](http://nps-dc.org).*

## Pathway Membership Class *Saturday, Jan. 19, 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 to register: [krakiatu@nationalpres.org](mailto:krakiatu@nationalpres.org), 202.537.7578.*



# WELCOME TO NATIONAL!

## ADVENT READING GUIDE

*Celebrating the coming of  
Jesus Christ.*

### Sunday

Isaiah 33:17-22

Galatians 3:15-22

Luke 1:57-66

### Monday

Isaiah 35:1-10

Galatians 3:23-4:7

Luke 1:67-80

### Tuesday

Zechariah 2:10-13

1 John 4:7-16

John 3:31-36

### Wednesday

Isaiah 62:6-7; 10-12

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 1:18-25

### Thursday

2 Chronicles 24:17-22

Acts 6:1-7

Acts 7:59-8:8

### Friday

Proverbs 8:22-30

1 John 13:20-35

John 13:20-35

### Saturday

Isaiah 49:13-23

Isaiah 54:1-13

Matthew 18:1-14

*We are so glad you are here today.*

**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. If you are a college student, welcome! We would love to be your church home.

**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.

**Young Worshipers** | Pick up a "Worshiper in Training" bag outside the Sanctuary for fun things to help children engage in worship. Please return the bags after the service.

**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** | Flowers are available outside of Elson Parlor to take with you if you are visiting 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 five pews of the sanctuary.*

## PRAYERS

*We pray for:*

Those who are struggling with loss and loneliness.

*We pray for our mission partners including:*

McGilvary College of Divinity, a seminary in Chiang Mai, Thailand that develops leaders for ministry in churches, schools, hospitals in Thailand and Southeast Asia.

*How can we pray for you?*

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



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20016  
202.537.0800  
[www.nationalpres.org](http://www.nationalpres.org)



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