

December 8, 2019

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them.*

Luke 2:9



Senior Pastor	Dr. David Renwick
Associate Pastors	Dr. Quinn Fox, Rev. Donna Marsh, Dr. Joyce Emery
Parish Associates	Dr. Nancy Fox, Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Music	Dr. Michael Denham (<i>Director</i>), Todd Fickley (<i>Organist</i>) Joanna Zorack-Greene (<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

Tonight: Handel's "Messiah" Concert

6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Bring family and friends to NPC Festival Choir, Soloists & Orchestra's performance of Handel's *Messiah*. No tickets are required; an offering will be received. A brief reception will follow.

Chrismon Tree

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!

Mission Gifts for Christmas Today & December 15, Stone Hall

Come down to Stone Hall for food, conversation, and the opportunity to give to organizations serving those in need in honor of friends or family! *Shop online through December at nationalpres.org/mission-gifts.*

Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale

**8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.,
Youth House driveway**

Boy Scout Troop 1946 is selling Christmas trees, wreaths, and garlands.

"Following Jesus" Part II

Pick up a copy of the weekly reading guide for "Following Jesus" Part II, covering 2020, at the bookstore or on the information table today!

WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

Sunday School

(No Sunday School Dec. 22 & 29)

Adults

Today and December 15:

"Following Jesus" Together

10:00–10:45 a.m., Chapel

"Following Jesus:"

Companions on the Journey

9:30–10:45 a.m., Church Room 105

Youth 9:30–10:45 a.m.

Gather 9:30–9:40 in the Multipurpose Building

- Grade 6: *Multipurpose Room*
- Grade 7: *Youth House Basement*
- Grade 8: *Multipurpose Building Basement*
- Grades 9/10: *Youth House Main Room*
- Grades 11/12: *Youth House Game Room*

Children 9:30–10:45 a.m.

- Age 2–5th grade: Children may come directly from the 9 a.m. service or be dropped off at the school building. Pick up children in the school building.

Nursery (Babies–Age 4)

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Church Rooms 16, and 7/8

Roaring 20s Small Group

12:15 p.m., Agencies Building Room 102

Young adults in their early- to mid-twenties are invited for weekly lunch, conversation, and Bible study.

"Across the Aisle" Young Professionals

12:15 p.m., Church Room 110/111

All young professionals are invited for weekly lunch and conversation.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are

given to the glory of God by Johanna Huijssoon and her husband Terry, in loving memory of her mother and his "Mutti," Diny Huijssoon, remembering her birthday on December 14th.

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.

9 A.M. WORSHIP

Sanctuary

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on "Es ist ein' Ros'" Johannes Brahms

Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Joyce Emery

▲ HYMN 10 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

ADVENT PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, we bow in worship before you, grateful for the forgiveness you offer to us through Christ Jesus. In the daily walk of our earthly life, keep us seriously seeking after you, and affectionately walking with you. Sometimes we hide the good news that comes to us in Jesus' birth. Sometimes our confidence grows weak and our light fails to shine. Come to us, we pray, and when you come, may we not be found hiding the treasure you have entrusted to us, nor asleep with your light grown dim, but confidently waiting and serving you: Our Lord and glorious King.

from Richard Baxter

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;
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.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Marc and Tisha Schestopol with
Bram, Celia, and Max

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *see p. 5* Advent Affirmation

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY *see p. 5*

Regent Square

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *see p. 5*

Dr. Quinn Fox

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7

Elder Serge Duss

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SERMON Shining Light on the Subject
Luke 2:8-20

Dr. David Renwick

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

▲ HYMN 59 *verses 1, 2, 5, 6* While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Christmas

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE Advent Orgelbüchlein Chorales

J. S. Bach

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Sanctuary

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Es ist ein' Ros'"

Johannes Brahms
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Joyce Emery

▲ HYMN 10

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Sarah and James Crumley with
Peter and Thomas

CHORAL RESPONSE

You are a present joy, O Lord, and will be ever our reward.
E'er great the light in you we see to guide us to eternity.

Deo gracias

ADVENT CONFSSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, we bow in worship before you,
grateful for the forgiveness you offer to us throuh Christ Jesus.
In the daily walk of our earthly life, keep us seriously seeking after you,
and affectionately walking with you.
Sometimes we hide the good news that comes to us in Jesus' birth.
Sometimes our confidence grows weak and our light fails to shine.
Come to us, we pray, and when you come,
may we not be found hiding the treasure you have entrusted to us,
nor asleep with your light grown dim,
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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Renwick

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-7

Deacon Ron Martinson

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Shining Light on the Subject
Luke 2:8-20

Dr. David Renwick

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

RESPONSE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein' Ros'

Choir

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung; of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Congregation

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

▲ 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

Christ Is the Morning Star

John Rutter

Christ is the morning star, the light of God that shines from afar;

The Son of God in human form revealed, the wound of Adam's sin forever healed.

For God, who formed mankind of clay will bring forth our salvation on that day

When he, who made all things since time began, will send his Son, to live on earth as man.

And when he comes, a child on earth, the sun and stars will shine at his birth,

To light a world that long in darkness lay: The light of God, the gift of Christmas Day.

Christ is the morning star, Christ is the morning star, Christ is the morning star.

And when he comes again as King, then heav'n and all creation shall sing;

With saints in glory seated round his throne we'll see his face, and know as we are known.

Christ is the morning star, Christ is the morning star, Christ is the morning star.

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY Regent Square

Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,

Praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One:

One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

▲ HYMN 59 *verses 1, 2, 5, 6* While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Christmas

▲ BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Christ is the morning star, Christ is the morning star, Christ is the morning star.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE Advent Orgelbüchlein Chorales

J. S. Bach

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Jones Hall (School Gym)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

- ▲ WELCOME SONG Speak O Lord Keith and Kristyn Getty
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Donna Marsh
CALL TO WORSHIP
- ▲ SONGS OF PRAISE AND PREPARATION
How Many Kings Jason Germain
O Come, O Come Emmanuel Traditional
- ADVENT PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION OF SIN
O Lord, we bow in worship before you, grateful for the forgiveness you offer to us through Christ Jesus. In the daily walk of our earthly life, keep us seriously seeking after you, and affectionately walking with you. Sometimes we hide the Good News that comes to us in Jesus' birth. Sometimes our confidence grows weak and our light fails to shine. Come to us, we pray, and when you come, may we be found, not hiding the treasure you have entrusted to us, nor asleep with your light grown dim, but confidently waiting and serving you: our Lord and glorious King. Adapted from Richard Baxter, 1615-1691
- SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON
LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE Peter and Lori Backlund
- ▲ RESPONSE OF PRAISE Great Light of the World Bebo Norman
- ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

- A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Cate McCrory
- SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 Elder Fred Byus
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
- SERMON Shining Light on the Subject Dr. David Renwick
Luke 2:8-20

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

- ▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Advent Affirmation Rev. Donna Marsh
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

CLOSING SONG *offering received* All Creation Sing Steve Fee/Watts/Handel

- ▲ CLOSING PRAYER

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

UPCOMING EVENTS

School Open House

Friday, December 13

National Presbyterian School gives special consideration to applications from NPC families for nursery (age 3) through 6th grade. *Visit nps-dc.org for more info.*

Visual Arts at National

Sunday, December 15

12:30 p.m., Culbertson Library

Are you a painter, sculptor, photographer, floral designer, weaver, quilter, or multimedia artist? Come join others in the visual arts for a brief conversation! *Please RSVP to Nancy Low at nonilow@verizon.net.*

Army Chorus Concert and Luncheon

Monday, Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m.

All are invited for an Adult Fellowship Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in Stone Hall followed by a performance at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary by the U.S. Army Chorus. *For lunch reservations (\$15 in advance; \$20 at the door), call 202.537.7529 or sign up today in Stone Hall.*

Your December Giving and Commitments Make a Difference

Thank you! Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship that comforts and inspires, classes and groups for all ages, pastoral care in times of difficulty, and service to those in our city and world.

Make a gift from your computer or tablet

- Go to www.nationalpres.org/giving

Make a gift from your phone

- Text the letters NPC to 77977

Make a 2020 commitment

- Go to nationalpres.org/2020

Worship in December

- **Next Sunday, December 15**

A service of special music at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and a candlelight creche at 11:00 a.m. in Jones Hall.

- **Sunday, December 22**

The Christmas story told for all ages at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

- **Sunday, December 29**

One worship service at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve at National Tuesday, December 24

We will have three services on Christmas Eve:

5 p.m. Family Nativity Worship

Kids, teens, and adults bring the Bible's nativity story to life. Families welcome!

8 p.m. Candlelight & Communion Worship

This beautiful evening candlelight service reverently ushers in Jesus' birth.

10 p.m. Candlelight & Carols Worship

A carol-filled worship service joyfully celebrates the birth of our Lord.

Welcome Christmas Guests

You can help show the love of Christ to our many visitors on Christmas Eve by serving as an usher or handing out ornaments after worship. It is a fun and easy way to make a difference! *Contact: Leslie Saum, LSaum@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7494.*

Pecan and Fruitcake Sales

Purchase your Christmas pecans and fruitcakes today at the bookstore, downstairs, just outside of Stone Hall.

WELCOME TO NATIONAL!

"FOLLOWING JESUS" WEEKLY READING

Scripture Reading for December 9-15, 2019

Luke 2:21-40

Questions for Reflection

- Why do you think Luke emphasized Jesus was from a poor family?
- As Jesus grew, he was "filled with wisdom" and "the favor of God was upon him" (vs. 40). What do you think was the role of his parents, Mary and Joseph, in Jesus' faith development (see vss. 41-52)?
- When Simeon and Anna saw Jesus (vss. 30, 32, 38), what did it mean to them?
- How might Simeon's prayer be a prayer for you as you reflect on the coming birth of Jesus?
- Write down Simeon's and Anna's longings, fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. In what way can these help form our own spiritual hopes and prayers?

A weekly reading guide is available at nationalpres.org/adults

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.

Our Pew Crew team, wearing blue badges, is here to welcome you and answer any questions. Head to the Parlor after the 9 a.m. service, or come downstairs to Stone Hall after the 11 a.m. services, to meet others and enjoy coffee and cookies.

Welcome booklets 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 grieve the death of:

Dick Schaefer on November 18, 2019. A memorial service will take place on December 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Peter Meszoly on November 24, 2019. A memorial service will take place on December 12 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Please submit prayer requests to:

Liz Martin, lmartin@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7540.



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