

December 15, 2019

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

"Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God"

Luke 2:28

*"Anna began to speak about the child to all who were looking
for the redemption of Jerusalem"*

Luke 2:38

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

Mission Gifts for Christmas *All morning in 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 31 at nationalpres.org/mission-gifts.*

Chrismon Tree

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

Pecan Sales

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

WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

Sunday School

(No Sunday School Dec. 22 & 29)

Adults

"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

2

Visual Arts at National *12:15 p.m., Church Room 5*

(please note new location)

Are you a painter, sculptor, photographer, floral designer, weaver, quilter, or multimedia artist? Come join others in the visual arts for a brief conversation.

Youth Christmas Party *6:00–8:00 p.m.*

All youth are invited for the annual white elephant gift exchange! *For locations and details, contact Kristin Franke at kfranke@nationalpres.org.*

"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.

Roaring 20s Small Group

(No Meeting This Week)

This group will resume weekly meetings on January 12, 2020.

"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 and in honor of Eva Wiley by Walt Hampton.

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 Prelude on "The Holly and the Ivy" Herbert Sumsion
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE David and Susan Theis with
Parker and Sydney

CHORAL RESPONSE African Noel André J. Thomas

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel! Sing we all Noel.

Come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer.

The King of kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, we bow in worship before you, grateful for the forgiveness you offer to us through Jesus Christ. 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 (1615-1691)

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.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. David Renwick

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS *see p. 5*

Festival First Nowell Dan Forrest

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY *see p. 5* *Regent Square*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Dr. Joyce Emery

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:25-40 Deacon Paul Waymack

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Hymn *see p. 4* Child in a Manger Bunessan

SERMON Fully Satisfied Dr. David Renwick

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

▲ HYMN 23 Angels We Have Heard on High *Gloria*

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE Chorale Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo," BWV 729 J. S. Bach

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Sanctuary

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Prelude on "The Holly and the Ivy"

Herbert Sumsion
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Kristi and Matt Teems with
Caleb and Owen

CHORAL RESPONSE

African Noel

André J. Thomas

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel! Sing we all Noel.

Come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer.

The King of kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

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from Richard Baxter (1615-1691)

SILENT CONFESSION AND CHORAL MEDITATION

O Nata Lux

Morten Lauridsen

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi, dignare clemens supplicum, laudes preces que sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis. Nos membra confer effici, tui beati coporis.

O born of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, mercifully accept the praises and prayers of those who come before you,

Who humbled yourself to be clothed in flesh for the sake of those who are lost. Grant us to be made members of your holy body.

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Hymn

Child in a Manger

Bunessan

1 Child in the manger, infant of Mary, outcast and stranger, Lord of all;

Child who inherits all our transgressions, all our demerits on him fall.

2 Once the most holy Child of salvation gently and lowly lived below;

Now, as our glorious mighty Redeemer, see him victorious o'er each foe.

3 Prophets foretold him, infant of wonder; angels behold him on his throne;

Worthy our Savior of all our praises; happy forever are his own.

Mary Macdonald, translated by Lauchlan Macbean

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. David Renwick

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:25-40

Elder Delores Ziegler

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

SERMON

Fully Satisfied

Dr. David Renwick

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE Lord, Now Lettest Thou Thy Servant

Alexander Gretchaninoff

Lord, now lettest now thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people:
A light to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Nunc dimittis

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH An Advent Affirmation Dr. Joyce Emery

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

Festival First Nowell

Dan Forrest

Choir and Congregation (Seated)

The first Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in field where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

Choir

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

▲ *Choir and Congregation (Standing)*

Then let us all with one accord sing praise to our heav'nly Lord,
Who hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

▲ 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 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

▲ BENEDICTION

John Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King?

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

Chorale Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo," BWV 729

J. S. Bach

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP

Jones Hall (School Gym)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

- ▲ WELCOME SONG Light of the Stable Steve and Elizabeth Rhymer
- WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Quinn Fox
- CALL TO WORSHIP Cate McCrory
- ▲ SONG OF PRAISE AND PREPARATION
- God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen Traditional
- ▲ LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Tim Meeker and Janet Deppe
- ▲ SONG A Baby Will Come Bill Wolf
- ADVENT PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION OF SIN Cate McCrory
- O Lord, we bow in worship before you, grateful for the forgiveness you offer to us through Jesus Christ. 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 (1615-1691)
- SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON
- ▲ RESPONSE OF PRAISE Great Light of the World Bebo Norman
- ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

- SERMON Candle Crèche and Carols Dr. Quinn Fox
- Joseph and Mary Journey to Bethlehem Hymn 25, *verse 1* Away in A Manger
- Angels and Shepherds Visit the Manger Hymn 31, *verse 1* Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- Wise Men Follow the Star Hymn 56, *verses 1 & 5* The First Nowell
- RESPONSE Messiah Francesca Battiselli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

- ▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Advent Affirmation Kristin Franke
- 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 Glory Be to Christ Traditional, arr. Dustin Kensrue

- ▲ EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES AND BENEDICTION Dr. Quinn Fox
- 11 a.m. worship next Sunday will be in the Sanctuary; Jones Hall worship will resume January 5.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Army Chorus Concert and Luncheon

Tomorrow, December 16

Lunch: 11:30 a.m., Concert: 1:00 p.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.*

Worship in December

- **Next Sunday, December 22**
The Christmas story told for all ages at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with donuts and hot cocoa in Stone Hall following worship.
- **Sunday, December 29**
One worship service at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve at National Tuesday, December 24

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.*

Your December Giving Makes 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.

- **Recurring and one-time gifts** can be made at 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. Deliver stock information 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.
- **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 generosity!

WELCOME TO NATIONAL!

"FOLLOWING JESUS" WEEKLY READING

Scripture Reading for
December 16-22, 2019

Matthew 1:18-25

Questions for Reflection

- List characteristics of Joseph's experiences side-by-side with Mary's. Does your journey with God lead you to identify more with Mary or Joseph? When? Why?
- What do we learn about Joseph (vs. 19)? How can we model his courageous obedience to God's message in our lives?
- The angel exhorts Joseph to "be not afraid" (vs. 20). What do you sense God might birth in your life that would cause you to fear? Why?
- What insights do you have into Jesus' birth that the one born in Bethlehem is given both a common as well as a unique name—evoking the idea of rescue by a God who is with us?

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. Come downstairs to Stone Hall after worship to meet others and enjoy coffee and cookies.

Welcome gifts | Available at the entrances to the church.

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:

Kathy Swendiman on December 6, 2019

We pray for our mission partners, including:

Habitat DC, our local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a Christian nonprofit organization that believes that everyone deserves a home.

Please submit prayer requests to:

Liz Martin, lmartin@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7540.



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