

December 22, 2019

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*When Joseph woke from his sleep, he did as the angel of the
Lord commanded him.*

Matthew 1:24

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

Shop today in Stone Hall and online through December 31

Support God's work locally and internationally by giving to organizations serving those in need in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker. *Shop online 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!*

"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!

Pecan Sales

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

WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

Sunday School

No Sunday School Dec. 22 & 29;

Sunday School Resumes January 5

Nursery (Babies–Age 4)

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Church Rooms 16, and 7/8

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.

December Food Collection: Dried Fruit

You may drop off donations upstairs at the information table and downstairs outside of Stone Hall.

9 & 11 A.M. WORSHIP

Sanctuary

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Greensleeves"

Richard Purvis
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Donna Marsh

▲ HYMN 56 *verses 1-4*

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE 9 a.m. Joel and Bethany Velasco
with Lucas and Jamie

11 a.m. Bruce and Ginny MacLaury with Jack

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Greensleeves

O bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Almighty and everlasting God,

you revealed the coming of your Son our Savior

by the brightness of a guiding star.

As wise seers followed that light to him, and knelt in humble wonder,

so may we in adoration and confession also bow before him.

Holy God, forgive our sins and strengthen us to follow in his ways.

As the magi offered their earnest worship,

so may we offer ourselves to you in obedience and trust,

that all may know the glory and love of Jesus your Son.

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

Matthew 1:18-25

9 a.m. Brian Afnan

The Word of the Lord.

11 a.m. Rory Davis

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Joseph: Best Supporting Actor

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

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. 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

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. Quinn Fox

9 a.m. What Is This Lovely Fragrance?

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring?

Shepherds, O tell us whence such beauty, hear you not heavenly caroling?

What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Never the morning star, so radiant, followed its course o'er eastern skies!

Wise men, O haste with eager footsteps, seek the Savior born today.

Low at his feet we lay our treasure, hearts' adoration, love for aye.

11 a.m. The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood.

From boards they sawed and planed and filed, and splinters they withstood.

This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,

But cradled from the head to heel our Lord newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,

And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,

The angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,

And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,

But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."

The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,

And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift

And use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.

Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,

But charged with faith may we behold to follow in his way.

Thomas Troeger
with Danielle Cho, cello

▲ 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

Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ HYMN 22

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Dix

In the heav'ns wise men of old did the guiding star behold;

as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;

so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

John Rutter

▲ Congregation standing, as able

See You on Tuesday! Christmas Eve at National

Tuesday, December 24

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

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

10:00 p.m. // Candlelight & Carols Worship

SHARE IN THE JOY OF FAITHFUL GIVING!

*Together we can fulfil National's mission to
honor and serve Christ in 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.

Your Year-End Gifts Make a Difference

Giving through December 15, 2019

Annual Giving Budget	\$2,943,000
Given to Date	\$2,325,430
Still Needed	\$617,570

- **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 making distributions from an IRA account, you may want to consider the potential tax advantages of direct payments to NPC from your account.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 of all ages are invited! *Childcare is also available during the service for children age 4 and under.*

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.

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.

Worship Next Sunday *December 29, 11:00 a.m.*

Rev. Donna Marsh will preach at [one worship service](#) in the Sanctuary.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 4

8:00–9:30 a.m., Stone Hall

Enjoy a hearty breakfast and a presentation by Dr. Michael Denham entitled "God Sends His Singers." *Reserve your place: men@nationalpres.org or call 202.537.7527.*

Lend a Welcoming Hand

You can help at church on Sundays for as little as one hour a month! **Serve as an usher** by passing out bulletins, and collecting offerings. *Contact library@nationalpres.org. **Serve on the Pew Crew** by engaging with folks in the pew. *Contact Leslie Saum, lsaum@nationalpres.org.**

Pathway Membership Class *Saturday, January 25, 2020*

8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Learn more about the Christian faith, discipleship, and membership at National, and spend time with pastors and church leaders. *Contact Kemet Rakiatu to register: krakiatu@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7578.*

Family Winter Camp

February 14–16, 2020

Falling Waters, WV

Families with teens and young children are invited for a fun-filled weekend at Potomac Retreat Center—just 30 minutes to Whitetail Ski Resort, where you can spend an optional day of skiing or tubing. Speaker Jeff Dunn-Rankin will help us discover how using love languages can lead to family flourishing. We will meet at the retreat center on Friday evening and will head back to DC on Sunday afternoon. *Register: nationalpres.org/retreat*

Prepare for Marriage Course

Saturday, March 7, 2020

8:45 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Learn the skills you will need to thrive in your marriage during this one-day course. This class is offered once per year and is required for all couples whose weddings will be held at National. *Contact Melanie Lenhard to register: mlenhard@nationalpres.org; 202.552.4252.*

Join the Jordan Mission Trip *Early August 2020*

You can help our Capital Campaign partner in Amman Jordan with a medical clinic, teacher training, and English language by joining National's refugee ministry team. *For more information, contact John Turpin at jturpin@nationalpres.org or John Bernbaum at jbinternatl@gmail.com.*

WELCOME TO NATIONAL!

"FOLLOWING JESUS" WEEKLY READING

Scripture Reading for
December 23-29, 2019

Matthew 2:1-23

Questions for Reflection

- What was Herod's reaction to news of the birth of a king of the Jews? Might "all Jerusalem" have been frightened by news of the birth of the new king?
- Herod's title gets lost after vss. 1 and 3. Which characters are introduced into the story in between these mentions that might warrant this change, and why?
- How do royal gifts further confirm Jesus identity as a newborn king?
- What is the significance of the birth of a legitimate king in the face of a false one?
- What are the implications of the visit of Gentile dignitaries for the reign of this new king of the Jews?

*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 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:

Janet Wilson on December 15, 2019

We pray for our mission partners, including:

Bethlehem Bible College, preparing Christian leaders to serve churches and communities in the Middle East.

Please submit prayer requests to:

Liz Martin, lmartin@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7540.



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