

December 24, 2019

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION
8 P.M.

*Opening their treasure chests,
they offered Jesus gifts...*

Matthew 2:11

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>)



We are delighted that you have joined us to celebrate the birth of our
Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas Eve.

Please join us for worship on Sunday, December 29:

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

You are welcome every Sunday!

Full schedule resumes on January 5:

Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary), 11:00 a.m. (Jones Hall)

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30–10:45 a.m.



WORSHIP

8:00 P.M.

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Christmas Oratorio
Sinfonia
Aria "Sleep, My Beloved"
Variations on a French Noel
Pastorale "Gesù Bambino"
with Carolann Haley, handbells

J. S. Bach
Louis-Claude Daquin
Pietro A. Yon
Todd Fickley, organ

CHRISTMAS CHIMES AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David Renwick

▲ HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Choir Members Becky Cznadel, Joanna Lam
Ndeye Jackson, and Jan Childress

CHORAL RESPONSE

A Christmas Fanfare

Louis Pisciotta

Alleluia! O praise the Lord! Alleluia! Sing praises to God, for Christ is born!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Dr. Joyce Emery

Gracious and merciful God,
We remember how your Son quietly entered human history
on that first Christmas Eve.
We come before you in wonder, adoration, and humble repentance.
We are your children, but in need of your healing touch.
Forgive our sins and cleanse us, we humbly pray.
Capture our hearts and minds with the quiet splendor
that transformed a manger into heaven's throne.
Were it a thousand times more fair,
it still would be too poor a cradle for you, dear Jesus.
Holy Child, make for yourself a place within our hearts,
that each of us may keep for you a quiet, holy chamber.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

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;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

WELCOME *Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register.*

Dr. David Renwick

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

Kathy Byus

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Word to the Wise

Dr. David Renwick

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

▲ HYMN 66 *verses 1 and 5*

We Three Kings

Three Kings of Orient

▲ A CHRISTMAS 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.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Donna Marsh

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!

Minuit, Chrétien, c'est l'heure solennelle où L'Homme-Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous,

Pour effacer la tache originelle et de son Père arrêter le courroux.

Le monde entire tresaille d'espérance, a cette nuit qui lui donne Sauveur.

Peuple, à genoux! Attends ta délivrance! Noël! Noël! Voici le Rédempteur!

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love, and is gospel is peace.

By his true light are we offered salvation, and in his name all oppressed find release.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raising, let all within us praise God's holy name.

Christ is the Lord: Then ever, ever praise him. His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Sheri Jackson, soprano

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Dr. Quinn Fox

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Paul Christiansen

Infant holy, infant lowly, for a bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Child is Lord of all!
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Child is born for you!

PRAYER OF RESPONSE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Donna Marsh

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Dr. David Renwick

We invite everyone to join in lighting Christmas candles.

Choir members will assist the congregation in lighting.

Please light the candle of the person closest to you, sharing the candlelight along the entire pew.

Holding the lighted candle upright will keep it from dripping.

At the conclusion of the final hymn, upon signal from the minister, please extinguish all candles.

HYMN

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.

Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light.

With the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King.

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

BENEDICTION

Dr. David Renwick

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Stille Nacht"

Todd Fickley

▲ = Congregation standing as able

The flowers throughout the church are given to the glory and praise of God by the members and friends of National Presbyterian Church rejoicing in the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.*

Make Sandwiches for the Homeless

Sunday, January 12, 12:15 p.m.

Stone Hall

All ages can help feed the hungry in our city by making sandwiches for the homeless.

Pathway Membership Class

Saturday, January 25

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*

“Following Jesus” Preaching and Teaching in 2020

Our preaching and teaching through spring 2020 centers on “Following Jesus: The Story of His Life and Ours,” focusing on Jesus’ life as told in the Gospel of Luke. We will consider in depth the life, ministry, teaching, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we read through the entire Gospel of Luke. *Pick up a copy of the weekly reading guide on the information table outside of the Sanctuary to the right, or online at: nationalpres.org/adults.*

Prepare for Marriage Course

Saturday, March 7, 8:45 a.m.–3 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 or 202.552.4252.*

Mission Gifts for Christmas

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 Dec. 31: nationalpres.org/mission-gifts

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.*

2020 AT NATIONAL

Sundays at National are full of inspirational preaching, joyful traditional and contemporary music, Christian education classes for all ages and stages, and time to connect with one another.

A sampling of events and programming for the upcoming year:

“Following Jesus” for Adults, Youth, and Children resumes January 5

Know and grow in God’s word through preaching and Sunday School opportunities following the Gospel of Luke each week.

Youth

Middle and high school students gather regularly for fun games, meaningful conversation, and Bible study.

Vacation Bible School

A week long half-day Bible camp in July for kids age 4 through 5th grade. Each day includes Bible teaching, music, crafts, games and service projects.

Second Sunday Sandwich Making

A monthly family-friendly service project making sandwiches for the homeless in our city.

Youth Summer Trips

Middle school students will travel to The Great Escape conference with speakers, worship, and plenty of fun and high school students will spend a week hiking in the Laurel Highlands.

Mission Trips

Teams from National will serve alongside mission partners in the Dominican Republic and Amman, Jordan.

Great Day of Service

A day of service with family-friendly, hands-on service projects here at National and in the surrounding community in May.

Care and Support

Those going through a difficult time can receive a listening ear, prayer, and sustained spiritual support in times of transition or grief.

Small Groups

Groups gather throughout the week for Bible study, book discussion, prayer, support, and time with each other.

Learn more at www.nationalpres.org

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH 9:6

PRAYERS

We pray for:

Those serving in the military or foreign service.

How can we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to Liz Martin,
lmartin@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7540.



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