

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Staying Connected in Christ
11 AM Online Worship, Sunday, December 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Double Violin Concerto, II Largo, BWV 1043 J.S. Bach
Heather and Tessa Green, violins with Todd Fickley, keyboard

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. David Renwick

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Quinn Fox

HYMN *please sing!* Angels from the Realms of Glory *Regent Square*

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Matt and Kristi Teems with Madeleine, Caleb and Owen

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Regent Square*

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Rev. Donna Marsh

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. Thanks be to God

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

Hebrews 1:1-5; 2:14-16

Dr. Renwick

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

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

MESSAGE

Jesus’ Coming: Greater Than the Angels

Dr. Renwick

HYMN

Once in Royal David’s City

Irby

1. Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

A TIME FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS

Hymn: Away in a Manger *Mueller*

Scene I The Wise Men

verse 1

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Scene II The Wise Men and Herod

verse 2

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my bed until morning is nigh.

Scene III The Shepherds

verse 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Scene IV The Stable

HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

3. Jesus is our childhood pattern, day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

An Advent Affirmation

Rev. Katie Francis

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

Rev. Francis

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

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Dr. Quinn Fox
Michael Denham
Appalachian Carol

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.

All the evil folks on earth sleep in feathers at their birth.

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, you have got a manger bed.

Have you heard about our Jesus, have you heard about his fate,

How his mother went to the stable on that Christmas Eve so late?

Winds were blowin', cows were lowin', stars were glowin', glowin', glowin'.

Joanna Zorack-Greene, soprano and Heather Green, violin

ADVENT GLORIA

Gloria

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo! Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dr. Fox

HYMN *please sing!*

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

2. And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*
3. This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Renwick

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo

Norman Dello Joio
Mr. Fickley

7 PM Online Tonight!

Handel's *Messiah*

Our Coming Savior in *Born for Us*

A Special Rebroadcast

of the 2019 NPC Festival Choir and Orchestra Concert

www.NationalPres.org

Let's Stay Connected! Announcements for You

Christmas Eve

- 3:00 & 5:00 pm: (Online) The Christmas Story in Candles
- 7:00 pm: (In person) Outdoor Candlelight Celebration
- 8:00 & 10:00 pm: (Online) Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

[Click here](#) for all the details and mark your calendars!

Prayers

We grieve the death of Judy Westrate on December 14. Please email lmartin@nationalpres.org to be informed about memorial services.

Please pray for the Evangelical Nazarene Marka Church as share Christ with Jordanians and refugees from Syria and Iraq.

Tonight: Handel's Messiah Re-broadcast

Hear NPC's majestic festival choir and orchestra in a moving performance of Handel's Messiah, recorded in 2019. Join us at 7:00 pm on Dec 20 on our [Worship Live page](#). Please [click here](#) for more info.

Tomorrow: U.S. Army Chorus Broadcast

On Dec 21 at 1:00 pm, you are invited to watch and listen to delightful Christmas music brought to you by talented members of the Army Chorus, broadcast on our [Adult Fellowship Broadcast page](#) from the NPC Sanctuary. The music will be a festive mix of traditional and sacred Christmas music.

Floral Dedication

Thank you to the Flower Ministry for an amazing year of beautiful floral arrangements in the sanctuary. *With appreciation from the staff and your church family*

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Are you looking for a meaningful gift for a loved one? Visit our [Mission Gifts page](#) to select from a catalog of donations to organizations that are doing God's work locally and internationally.

Learn & Grow

Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School

You are invited to join us online! You can check out our options for each group here:

- [Adult Sunday School info](#)
- [Children Sunday School info](#)
- [Youth Sunday School info](#)

Schedule for Christmas Break

Dec 20

- Regular Sunday school schedule
- Regular youth group

Dec 27

- No Sunday school
- No youth group

Jan 3

- No Sunday school
- Adult January Term speaker series starts
- No youth group

Jan 10

- Adult January Term speaker series
- Regular children's Sunday school
- Regular youth Sunday school
- No youth group

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Online Class

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey on the Pathway of Christian Discipleship. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two half-day virtual Pathway class on Sat, Jan 23 and Sat, Jan 30. For more information please [click here](#).

Connect LIVE on Zoom

Immediately following online worship, you are invited to a casual virtual gathering where you can “pass the peace of Christ” with others and enjoy conversation. To join in, simply click the “Connect LIVE” button above the livestream window after the service.

Prayer LIVE

Would you like to pray with a live person after worship? Please call 12-1 pm. A Pastor, Stephen Minister, or Deacon will be prepared to take your call. If all lines are busy, please leave a voicemail with your name and number and you will receive a return call. Phone: (202) 800-9121.

Race Matters Series Now on YouTube

Dr. Renwick’s discussion of matters of race titled “*God so loved THE WORLD: What to read? How to think? What to do?*” is now on YouTube. Please [click here](#) to listen to this series and more!

Re-gathering Volunteers Needed

Step one to re-gathering is to recruit and train volunteers to act as greeters, guides and ushers. If you would like to help please [click here](#) to fill in the form, and we will be in touch.

COVID times are just plain hard!

We are in this together. The Care/Connections staff have prepared resources to use during this time. Use them on your own or share with a friend. Feeling Isolated? Grieving? Anxious? Needing to have a hard conversation with someone? Find these resources on the [Care webpage](#) or contact [Liz Martin](#) or [Leslie Saum](#).

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 DTC, Clearing Number: 0015, Client Account number: 504- 041937-387, Client Name: The National Presbyterian Church, Inc., NPC TIN: 53-0196611
- IRA Distributions: Required IRA minimum distributions 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 generosity!



Building Faith Together in 2021

It's not too late to show your support for God's work in and through NPC in 2021! Please [click here](#) to make your commitment. For more information, [click here](#). Or if you have questions, you may contact lskrine@nationalpres.org or call (202) 537-7495. As always, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!