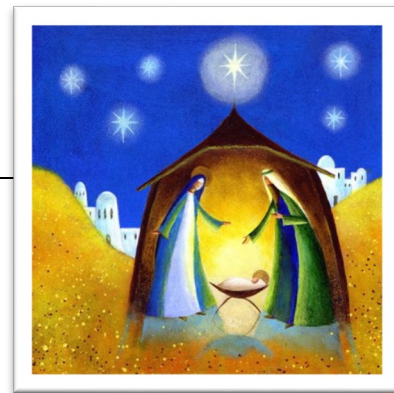


Christmas Eve

Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2023

8:00 P.M.



National United Methodist Church 3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC
“Making the Love of God Obvious”

Our Commitment



We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

An Invitation

As faith awakens in you and you seek to deepen your discipleship of Jesus Christ, we invite you to become a member of National United Methodist Church. Indicate your interest in membership on the welcome card today and our Minister of Discipleship will extend an invitation to upcoming orientations and then an introduction to the faith community.

www.nationalchurch.org | (202) 363-4900 | communications@nationalchurch.org

PRELUDE

Nocturne on O Bambino-- Daniel Dorff
Kerm Towler, Flute

Meditation from Thais-- Jules Massenet
Jonathan Broadnax II, Violin
Joy Jones, Piano

Mary, Did You Know?
Victoria White, Flute

Away In A Manger— arr. Cathy Stamegna
Jonathan Broadnax II, Violin
Yoanna Joseph, Violin

A Holiday Celebration-- Michael Story
Jonathan Broadnax II, Violin
Yoanna Joseph, Violin
Cheyenne Olsen, Cello

In the Bleak Midwinter-- Harold Darke
Soprano, Katelyn Neumann
Alto, Beth Revell
Tenor, Julian Baldwin
Bass, Larry L. Boggs, Jr.
Todd Beckham, Organ

Silent Night— arr. Barbara Green
Ringers: Jacob Barker, Todd Beckham, Larry L. Boggs, Jr., Pam Ellsworth, Barbara Green, Alice Sartain, Pam Settlege, Grayland Snead Jr, Connie Sommers
Director: Susan G Staines

Noel Variations-- Louis-Claude D’Aquin
Todd Beckham, Organ

LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

John 1: 1-5, 14

Angela Pupino

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;

[Refrain]

Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest; *[Refrain]*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing; *[Refrain]*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Janet Craswell

ONE: There is room for you here.
If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.
If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.
If you're new to this place, or have been here before.

ALL: **Come in, come in. There is room for you here.**

ONE: The angels are singing, "Be not afraid."
The angels are singing, "Good news and great joy!"

ALL: **So come in, come in! There is room for us here.**

Please turn and greet a neighbor with words and gestures of welcome at this time.

WELCOME

Please consider making an online donation directly to the United Methodist Committee on Relief through the QR code. UMCOR offers immediate response to national and international suffering.



DONATE WITH QR CODE

ANTHEM

Room-- Lois Ceesarini

Celebration Choir
Metropolitan Ringers

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Angela Pupino

CAROL

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

[Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
[Refrain]

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Janet Craswell

Children will be invited up to the steps for an age-appropriate lesson about Christmas.
Caregivers are welcome to join children.

BIBLE LESSON

The Gospel of Luke 2:1-20

Penny Andrews

This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

THE LESSON IN SONG

O Magnum Mysterium-- Morten Lauridsen

Celebration Choir

Translation from Latin:

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. Rachel B. Livingston

RESPONSE

O Holy Night-- Rebecca Belliston

*Sanctuary lights will be dimmed at this time in preparation for the lighting of individual candles.
As light is passed from one person to the next, please tip the unlit candle toward the one which is lit.*

Sarah Heisler & Cherie Davis, Soprano
Beth Revell & Katelyn Neumann, Alto
Jacob Barker & Julian Baldwin, Tenor
Benjamin D' Angelo & Larry L. Boggs, Jr., Bass

Grayland Snead Jr, Conductor
Joy Jones, Piano
Sheldon Thwaites, Percussion

CAROL

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

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature
sing.

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;

Heavenly 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

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Rachel B. Livingston

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo | *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*-- J.S. Bach

Todd Beckham, organ

How do we make the love of God obvious? Here's our good NEWS!

Nurture

We seek to make the love of God obvious through the ways we welcome and care for one another. Here are some upcoming community events:

February 13 Shrove Tuesday | Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner
February 22 Be a greeter at the UMW's Book and Bake Sale

Weekly Opportunities

- Learn how we offer warm hospitality on Sundays at 9 or 11am or online at 10am Sundays or 6pm Wednesdays.
- Join us any Sunday for free lunch @ Wesley Campus | noon.
- Submit a prayer request or call our emergency pastoral care line at 202-510-8555. Join a prayer call any weekday morning at 8am by calling 551-258-5131.

Education

National UMC is a learning community. Adults study the Bible together, discuss social justice issues, and learn spiritual practices that strengthen our faith and ability to serve in the world. Children and youth are cherished here, and encouraged to wonder, explore, and learn in open, creative environments that reflect God's love. In addition to our regular Sunday school offerings (10 AM-10:55 AM at the Metropolitan Memorial campus) and on-going mid-week classes, here are some upcoming opportunities that we are excited about:

- January 7 New Members Class, 12:30-2 PM, Metropolitan Memorial Library
Youth Fellowship 5-7pm Metropolitan Memorial Room 201
- January 14 Liberating Faith Bible study, 5 pm, Wesley campus – just starting now!
- January 21 Youth Fellowship 5-7pm Metropolitan Memorial Room 201
- January 24 On-line discussion (3 weeks) of *Incompatible: How the Church Cast Out LGBTQ Christians and Where We Go Next* by Charlie Baber. National UMC affirms LGBTQ people. Will our denomination?
- February 15 Beginning of Lenten study
- February 25 Start of Confirmation Classes. Parents of youth in grade 6 and above contact apupino@nationalchurch.org for more information.

And this summer, don't miss

- Vacation Bible School, June 24-28, 9 am-noon, ages 4 and up
Youth Service Week, July 8-11
-

Worship

9am and 11am Metropolitan, 11am Wesley, 6:30 Online Wednesdays

We come together to praise God and be nourished for the week ahead. In worship, God's spirit moves to transform us and transform the world.

- December 31 Celebration of Kwanzaa, 11am @Wesley Campus, followed by free community meal.
- January 14 MLK Sunday featuring attorney, activist, and author Debbie Hines, *Get Off My Neck: Black Lives, White Justice, and a Former Prosecutor's Quest for Reform* (book release March 2024). Ms. Hines will offer the message at 9am Metropolitan Memorial followed by a 10am question and answer session, and then an 11am message at nearby Wesley Campus.
- February 14 Lent Begins. Join us February 18 for the start of a series "A Sacred Voice is Calling." Do you dare follow where you feel led these days?
- March 31 Easter Sunday. Join us the week before for Holy Week
-

Service

During his ministry, Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed children, forgave sinners and sought out society's outcasts. We seek to continue his work for human wholeness by addressing both immediate needs and long-term sustainable solutions.

We engage in a variety of social justice ministries with both local and global partners. Join us in advocacy for Gun Violence Prevention, Literacy (Project Transformation), Affordable Housing (Washington Interfaith Network), Help with groceries and meals (Campus Kitchen). Visit our website to learn how to get involved.

January 10 1-3 pm the dementia support group Club Memory offers a survivor's monologue entitled "Dementia Man."

February 7 9 am to 3 pm, America Red Cross Blood Drive. Donors as well as hosts needed.



REMEMBERING & HONORING OUR LOVED ONES THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

Given By... In Memory of

Alexandra McPherron: Barry Spargo
Alice Sartain: Tom Parks
Ann Michel: James and Phyllis Albrecht
Art Rynearson: Our Parents
Bob & Jeri Weaver: Their parents
Carolyn and Suzanne Clewell: Our Parents
Marion and Warren Clewell
Cheryl Mickey: Robert Cheaney
Christian Martine: Adolph & Peggy Pedri
Circle 9: Mary Frances Walker
Dick & Carol Schleicher: Their families
Jeanie Mah: Kathy Portus
Joan Topalian: Her three sisters
Laura Harper Powell: Susan and Scott Harper
Marla Bosta: William Krueger
Mary Jo Marchant: Her brother and parents
Mary Rollefson: Jeanie Murphy
Nancy Riker: Temp Johnson
Tony Brown: Mike Heffner
William Schofield: Patricia Schofield
Sharis Pozen: Mary and Burleigh Arnold
Shirley Fall: John Fall
Stacy Krogh: Paul H J Krogh & Dorothy Krogh
Stephen D. Potts
Terry and Wayne Rusch: Tyler Christian Rusch
The Vieth Family: Ray and Eunice Stokes;
Richard and Jean Vieth

Given By... In Honor of

Alexandra McPherron: Shirley Fall
Alice Sartain: John Sartain
Bob & Jeri Weaver: Their children and 5
grandsons
Cheryl Mickey: Marjorie Cheaney and John
Mickey
Dayspring Choir: In Honor of Rev. Grayland
Snead, Jr
Eugene Beye and Rev. Janet Craswell: In
memory and honor of their parents
Jeanie Mah: Heidi Holgate, Rev. Grayland Snead,
Jr, and Rita Guenther
John & Barbara Tate: Their children,
grandchildren, and Caralee
Mary Jo Marchant: Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sheldon and Sue Smith: Rev. Dr. William A. &
Nancy Holmes
Stacy Krogh: Irene Potts & Rev. Grayland Snead,
Jr
Susan Staines: My Husband Verdon Staines
Terry and Wayne Rusch: Departed Family and
Friends
The Duroski-Leidl Family: In Honor and Joy of our
United Methodist Church Family
William Schofield: Elsie Schofield

