



Fourth Sunday in Advent

How does a weary world rejoice?

We make room.

December 24, 2023

9:00 A.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

What Child is This – Grant Colburn

Todd Beckham, piano

ENTRANCE

*Children are invited to gather at the back to receive bells to ring.
At the sound of the chime, please be seated while the children walk forward.*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Rachel B. Livingston

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: How does a weary world practice love?

ALL: By sending cards, and picking up the phone.

ONE: By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people’s stories and finding common ground.

ALL: By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.

ONE: There are a million ways to practice love. So today we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and LOVE as a reminder and a charge.

ALL: With God’s help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

SONG OF ADVENT LOVE

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

*CAROL

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud, and majesty and awe
[Refrain]

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
[Refrain]

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things, far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go
[Refrain]

CALL TO OFFERING

Angela Pupino

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.

OFFERTORY

Hope Awakes – Cliff Duren

Featuring

DaySpring Choir
Spencer Tate, bass
Sheldon Thwaites, drum
Paul Krogh, guitar
Todd Beckham, piano

Joined By

Kerm Towler, flute
Victoria White, flute
Jonathan Broadnax II, violin
Yoanna Joseph, violin
Cheyenne Olsen, cello

DEDICATING OUR GIFTS TO MINISTRY

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.
And we offer up to You the sacrifices of thanksgiving;
And we offer up to You the sacrifices of joy.

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.

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

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

We Make Room

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

In this time of meditation and commitment, participants may move to a prayer station around the sanctuary featuring the following options today:

- **Left Chapel**— Remembering those experiencing loss this holiday season.
- **Front Altar Kneeler and Pew near cross path**— Prayer with pastor
- **Adjacent Hallway**— Learning more about UMCOR.
- **Seated and Online**— Reflect on the following poem: "If I Could Give You Words" by Rev. Sarah Speed

If I could give you words
 for the very beginning—
 for the stretches
 and the yawns,
 and the opening of eyes,
 for the first hiccups,
 and the first smiles,
 and the first purse of your lips,
 I would say,
 "Oh, dear child,
 how you are loved."
 But the thing about love
 is you can't stop there,
 so I would go on to say,
 "You are strong,
 stronger than you think.
 And you are not alone—
 look at these parents
 who adore you
 and these doctors and
 nurses fighting for you.
 And you are enough,
 already enough.
 You haven't done anything yet.
 You've just been here,
 breathing,
 sleeping,

and already, you are enough.
 And then I might say,
 "This world is a mess,
 but it is your home,
 and you can make it better,
 so always try to make it better.
 And maybe most important
 of all:
 there is a love
 that is bigger than
 my understanding,
 that moves through
 this world,
 and I call that love God.
 And that love is here,
 here in this room,
 and that love knows
 your name by heart."
 Those are the words
 I would say to you
 as you stretch and yawn
 and open your eyes
 on the very first morning
 of your very first day.
 Let that be your foundation,
 like Zechariah did for John.
 Let love be your beginning

LORD'S PRAYER

TFWS Back cover

*CLOSING SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234, verses 1 and 3

POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen — Grant Colburn

Todd Beckham, piano

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

This year, our Outreach team has determined that 100% of the Christmas Eve Offering will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR journeys alongside people as they experience natural and human disasters; they are usually the first to arrive on the scene and the last to leave once a disaster occurs. Their efforts span the globe and include efforts such as disaster response, creation care, aid in war torn areas, migration, hunger and poverty, community development, water and sanitation, and so much more. For more detail about UMCOR you can visit: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>

100% with



United Methodist Committee on Relief

100% of each gift reaches the mission or ministry of your choice.



DONATE WITH QR CODE



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

