



# NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Metropolitan Memorial Campus 3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW | Washington, DC

December 10 at 11:00 AM



## ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

I wanted to create an image that spoke tenderly to the viewer as this text does to the reader. “Comfort, O comfort my people” (Isaiah 40:1)

When I’ve read this text before, the shepherding metaphor has only yielded masculine imagery in my mind. It makes sense with the text’s pronouns that I would imagine a masculine figure. It was also ingrained in me— through translations, biblical art, movies, children’s pageants, etc.—that shepherds were always men. I learned recently, however, that women were shepherds too. Some young women were trained and worked as shepherds before they were married; this notion completely added new dimension and depth to the shepherding metaphor.

I decided to use imagery of modern-day shepherds to inspire this image. A shepherd is at once fierce and tender, willing to face the most dangerous of predators in the dead of night while warmly cradling the most vulnerable of the flock.

In this image, the shepherd nurtures a lamb while leading the flock through fields of tall grasses and flowers. The fuchsia flowers in the foreground are marjoram flowers that represent comfort and the steadfastness of God’s word even in the midst of the leveling of the land. The shepherd’s clothes have repeated medallions with simplified imagery of a straight highway in the wilderness. Within the stylized landscape, a voice proclaims the coming glory of the Lord. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

## 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 attendance registry today and our Minister of Discipleship will extend an invitation to upcoming orientations and then an introduction to the faith community.*

[www.nationalchurch.org](http://www.nationalchurch.org) | (202) 363-4900 | [communications@nationalchurch.org](mailto:communications@nationalchurch.org)

Wi-Fi Password: Welcome!

**PRELUDE** *My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of The Lord* - J.S. Bach Todd Beckham, organ

**WORDS OF WELCOME** Angela Pupino

**ENTRANCE**

✠ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Lo how a Rose e'er Blooming* UMH 216

✠ **ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

ONE: How does a weary world practice peace?

ALL: **By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.**

ONE: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

ALL: **By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.**

ONE: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

ALL: **With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.**

✠ **EXCHANGE SIGNS of PEACE** *We exchange signs of our friendship in Christ.*

✠ **RESPONSE IN SONG** *Come, Let Us With Our Lord Arise* TFWS 2084  
verse 3

**Then let us render him his own,  
with solemn prayer approach his throne,  
with meekness hear the gospel word,  
with thanks his dying love record,  
our joyful hearts and voices raise,  
and fill his courts with songs of praise**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

**HYMN OF PEACE** *O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines* UMH 729

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Isaiah 40: 1-11 and Luke 1: 24-45

Angela Pupino

**RESPONSE IN SONG***Word of God Come Down on Earth*UMH 182  
verse 1

**Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heaven descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

**SERMON***Enduring Images of 2023*

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

We support the life of this church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Ushers will receive our attendance sheets, prayer requests, and financial gifts at this time. Online gifts may be shared using this QR code. Today we also consecrate prayer shawls.

**OFFERTORY***The Angel Gabriel - Basque Carol*

Chancel Choir

**DEDICATION***In the Bleak Midwinter*UMH 221  
verse 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet  
what I can I give him: give him my heart.**

**PRAYER of THANKSGIVING****CLOSING HYMN***Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus*

UMH 197

**† BENEDICTION**

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

**POSTLUDE***Magnificat Fugue - Johann Pachelbel*

Todd Beckham, organ

## Announcements



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Started in 2006, the Prayer Shawl Ministry combines knitting and crocheting with prayer. Our prayers are that each shawl will carry our strength, love, and energy to each who receives one. To date, we have given approximately 500 shawls to friends locally and internationally. **Reasons for the creation of Prayer Shawls include:**

- In need of comfort after a loss
- Undergoing medical procedures
- Caring for a family member or friend
- Making a life-style change
- Needing to be reminded of God's love

The Prayer Shawl Ministry welcomes all ages, experienced or beginners.

You can be a member of the ministry without attending meetings. Completed shawls can be left in the church office to the attention of "The Prayer Shawl Ministry".

Yarn is available either free or at a discounted price. **If you would like to join us in any capacity contact Mary Jo Marchant at [mjmarchant@verizon.net](mailto:mjmarchant@verizon.net) or 703-517-8676**



### Pageant at Family-Friendly

#### Christmas Eve Service | 11AM

Metropolitan Memorial Campus

Children and youth from both campuses are invited to participate as readers, angels, shepherds, magi, and various animals.

We also need adult chaperones and helpers.

There will be one rehearsal at 10 am, Sunday the

December 17<sup>th</sup>. **Contact Rev. Janet at**

**[JCraswell@nationalchurch.org](mailto:JCraswell@nationalchurch.org) to sign up**



### Volunteers for Christmas Eve

#### Dinner/Carol Sing

Wesley Campus | 5PM

To sign up to be a singer, server, or chef, email **[communications@nationalchurch.org](mailto:communications@nationalchurch.org)**



### Evening in Advent

December 17 | 5PM – 7PM

Metropolitan Memorial Campus | Great Hall

For info or volunteer opportunities email

**[communications@nationalchurch.org](mailto:communications@nationalchurch.org)**

SEATING IS LIMITED!  
Purchase Tickets in Advance



# HAVE A JAZZY CHRISTMAS

## With Bobby Felder and Friends



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**

Holiday Dinner: 5:00-6:30 pm  
Concert: 6:30-8:30 pm



**TICKETS ON SALE AT EVENTBRITE**  
**[tinyurl.com/jazzatwesley](http://tinyurl.com/jazzatwesley)**

**Dinner & Concert: \$35** | **Concert: \$20**  
must purchase in advance | in advance or at door

5312 Connecticut Ave., NW, DC | [www.nationalchurch.org/jazz](http://www.nationalchurch.org/jazz)