



NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

December 17 at 11:00 AM



ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

This painting is a meditation on the holy watercourses of the Negeb and all of the metaphors within that image. I painted with oil paint, charcoal, and copper leaf on canvas; the copper represents joy in our weary world.

For God, we are weary and we see no end to the weariness. Lament with us. Holy One, you are steadfast in your love like the watercourses of the Negeb. In your name, we call out evil. When we do, we are glimmers of hope. By your example, we act in the ways of Jesus. When we do, we are shimmers of joy. We often fall short; forgive us. We strive on, for when we succeed, your new heaven shines through. Strive with us.

Mother God, in this time of ascending fear, how do we stay aware of the needs of the world, active toward the renewal of your people, and focused on the specifics that are in your control through your call to us? Keep awake with us. Adonai, it is in your name that we give ourselves time to lament. With you, we cry together. When our ancestors emerged from exile, by the rivers of Babylon, we sat down, and there we wept when we remembered Zion. The power of nostalgia—is it getting in the way of your work? Cry with us.

Holy Wisdom, we allow ourselves to be amazed, to dream, to lean into your call to garner your gifts the way raindrops become creeks and creeks become coursing rivers. We challenge ourselves to see the glimmers of hope in the murky waters of our current time. We beg you for clarity, but no, you continue to show us the way through subtle nudges, not obvious signs. We must flow on in endless song. How

can we keep from singing? Perhaps our tears and our songs are one. Sing with us.

Holy Word, may our actions match your call, your claim on our lives. May we come together in our lament to sow the change your justice calls forth. Sow with us, we pray, that our next generation may reap our tears with shouts of joy. Amen. —**Hannah Garrity**

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

WiFi Password: Welcome!

PRELUDE *Dulci Jubilo-In Sweet Jubilation* - J.S. Bach Todd Beckham, organ

WORDS OF WELCOME Rev. Janet Craswell

ENTRANCE

✠ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* UMH 216

✠ **ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP** Connie Sommers

ONE: How does a weary world practice joy?

ALL: By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.

ONE: By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies.
By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

ALL: By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.

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

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

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

✠ **RESPONSE IN SONG** *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.* UMH 211

METROPOLITAN RINGERS *Carol of the Bells/ God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*
Arranged by Lloyd Larson

BAPTISM UMH 39

Henry Walter Edmondson
son of Madeline Brock and Michael Edmondson, born January 3, 2023

HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:57-66 Connie Sommers

RESPONSE IN SONG

Word of God Come Down to Earth

**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

Amazed

Rev. Janet Craswell

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.



OFFERTORY

Jesus Christ the Appletree - Daniel Pinkham

Chancel Choir
Bruce Weber, guitar

DEDICATION

In the Bleak Midwinter

**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;
what I can, I give him: give him my heart.**

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

† CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH 246

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Janet Craswell

POSTLUDE

Noel - Louis-Claude d'Aquin

Todd Beckham, organ



National United Methodist Church

Evening in Advent

crafts, carols, and dinner

 **December 17th, 5pm - 7pm**

 Metropolitan Memorial Campus - Great Hall
3401 Nebraska Ave NW Washington, DC 20016

An evening of Christmas crafts, carols, cookies, and dinner for all ages! This will be a fun, relaxed event for you, your friends, family, and neighbors.
Everyone is welcome!

Please bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share.
Donations of canned food welcome for Campus Kitchen.



Christmas Eve at National UMC

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9 am - Advent
Metropolitan Memorial Campus | Live-streamed

11 am - Family Christmas Celebration
Metropolitan Memorial Campus

11 am - Christmas Candles and Communion
Wesley Campus

5 pm - Free Meal and Carol Sing | Wesley Campus

8 pm - Candlelight Lessons and Carols
Metropolitan Memorial Campus | Live-streamed

www.nationalchurch.org