

NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

December 17 at 9:00 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.

Oh 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

Wi-Fi Password: Welcome!



***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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 126 and Luke 1: 57-66 Connie Sommers

MESSAGE for TODAY *What Then Will This Child Become?* Angela Pupino

INVITATION to DISCIPLESHIP Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

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 forced into conflict zones.
- Right Hallway**—Learning more about the Men's Group Meditation at the Metropolitan Memorial campus.
- Front Altar Kneeler and Pew near cross path**—Prayer with clergy
- Seated and Online**---Reflect on the following poem: "*All the Way to Joy*"

We could play hard and fast, not let anything touch us at all, keep composure, have all the answers. Or we could crack ourselves open and let everything in. We could feel everything, every touch, every marvel. We could stand gaping at the beauty of the world, mouths wide open (because sometimes a mouth wide open is the very best gratitude). We could laugh so loudly that the whole restaurant looks and err on the side of goofy whenever possible. We could put our defenses down. We could grow soft. We could choose awe. We could take her by the arm. We could let her lead us all the way to joy.

by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

LORD'S PRAYER

TFWS Back cover

***CLOSING SONG** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

UMH 196

BLESSING

Angela Pupino



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

