



Today's service is live-streamed. Those seated in rear remain off-camera

NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Wesley Campus
5312 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, D.C.
December 10 at 11:00 AM

Making the Love of God Obvious



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 Garrit**

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!

* Standing as you are able

***OPENING PRAISE**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

TFWS 2193

WELCOME

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

***SONG of PRAISE**

This Christmas - Donny Hathaway & Nadine McKinnon

Reggie Moore, soloist

***PRAYER of THANKSGIVING**

Paula Pree

LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES

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 choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

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

***SHARING the PEACE**

Paula Pree

***A CAROL of CHRISTMAS**

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

UMH 230

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

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**

Maybe Christmas Should be All the Time

Mike Wheaton, soloist

Written by Brian Price and Mike Wheaton

DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

DEDICATING OUR GIFTS to MINISTRY

Colin Davies

We Pray:

**Work through us and our gifts Lord, so what comes to us as seed, goes forth as flower.
And what comes to us as flower, goes forth as fruit.**

BIBLE LESSON

Psalm 126 and Luke 1:57-66

Christian Martine

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

SERMON

What Then Will This Child Become?

Angela Pupino

INVITATION to DISCIPLESHIP

***HOLY COMMUNION**

Taste and See by Israel Houghton

***LORD'S PRAYER**

(ENGLISH)

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory, forever.
Amen.*

(SWAHILI)

*Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, Jina lako litukuzwe;
Ufalme wako ufike,
Utakalo lifanyike
Duniani kama mbinguni.
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,
Utusamehe makosa yetu,
Kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.
Usitutie katika kishawishi,
Lakini utuopoe maovuni.
Amina.*

***CLOSING SONG**

Si Tuvieras Fé

For Everyone Born Hymnal

BLESSING

Angela Pupino

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paula Pree and Rita Guenther



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 | Live-streamed

5 pm - Free Meal and Carol Sing | Wesley Campus

8 pm - Candlelight Lessons and Carols

Metropolitan Memorial Campus | Live-streamed

www.nationalchurch.org

