



NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Metropolitan Memorial Campus 3401 Nebraska Ave NW
Wesley Campus 5312 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC

DECEMBER 18, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

METROPOLITAN MEMORIAL 9 AM

Children are invited to gather at the back entrance to receive bells to ring after the prelude ends.

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter
Arranged by Karen Buckwalter

Metropolitan Ringers
Brian Seemann, Director

BELL PROCESSION

Children enter the sanctuary ringing bells

WELCOME

Angela Pupino with Connie Sommers

Connie: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

**ALL: God sends us signs of God's presence.
All we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.**

Angela: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had born a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

**ALL: We light these candles of hope, peace, joy and today of love.
No matter our circumstances, we know God is with us. We are not alone.**

***CAROL OF LOVE**

Silent Night

UMH 239, Stanza 1 and 3

ANTHEM

Love Came at Christmas
Alan Geyer

Dayspring Choir

Tithes, offerings, and "welcome" sheets will be collected by ushers at this time.

...love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign. Alleluia!
Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign? Alleluia! Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine; love to God and all people, love for plea and gift and sign. Alleluia!

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Rev. Janet Craswell

Young people are encouraged to gather near the chancel steps, exiting to Children's Choir afterward

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1: 18-25

Connie Sommers

SERMON

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Love Came Down at Christmas* UMH 242 PRAYER OF THE DAY and THE LORD'S PRAYER** Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston***CLOSING HYMN** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240**BENEDICTION and CALL TO ACTION** Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson**POSTLUDE** *God Rest You* Junghoon Park, Piano

METROPOLITAN MEMORIAL 11AM*The * invites participants to stand as we are able.***PRELUDE***In the Bleak Midwinter*
Arranged by Karen BuckwalterMetropolitan Ringers
Brian Seemann, Director**WELCOME**

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson with Dr. Ann Michel

Ann: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

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Doug: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had born a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

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***CAROL OF LOVE** *Silent Night* UMH 239, Stanza 1 and 3**TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS**

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1: 18-25

Dr. Ann Michel

ANTHEM*Love Came at Christmas*
Alan Geyer

Chancel Choir

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...love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
Alleluia! Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus, but
wherewith for sacred sign? Alleluia! Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be
mine; love to God and all people, love for plea and gift and sign. Alleluia!

SERMON

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Love Came Down at Christmas* UMH 240

PRAYER OF THE DAY and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Ann Michel

***CLOSING HYMN** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* UMH 240

***BENEDICTION and CALL TO ACTION**

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

POSTLUDE

Deck the Hall
Jean Pasquet

Bruce Caviness, Organ

WESLEY 11 AM GLOBAL PRAISE

*The * invites participants to stand as we are able.*

PRELUDE

Christmas in Ghana

See Insert

***WELCOME AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

***OPENING HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211, Stanzas 1,2 & 4

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Larry Hoke with help from young Christians

PART ONE

Matthew 1:18-25

SPECIAL MUSIC

People Get Ready --Curtis Mayfield

See Insert

PART TWO

Luke 2:1-19

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

WESLEY PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Larry Hoke

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.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow

See Insert

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston and Paula Pree

POSTLUDE

The Old Landmark

See Insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TODAY! 10 am Coffee and Conversation: Christmas Tour!

500 middle school students from Alice Deal toured the Metropolitan Memorial sanctuary this week for a field trip and asked NUMC staff the number of crosses, arches, and stained glass windows. Any idea? Join us on a tour of the church which will start with coffee in the Great Hall.



Christmas Pageants!

At **Wesley Campus** TODAY, 11 am, all young people attending worship can claim a part in the story of Christmas! See Reverend Janet when you arrive!

At **Metropolitan Memorial Campus** TODAY from 12:30 to 1:30, children interested in claiming a role in the 4 pm Christmas Eve Pageant will rehearse in the sanctuary.



Food for Thought: Thursday, December 22nd 7pm

How might a house look for Christmas based on what each gospel says about it? In **Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes**, we imagine each of the four gospels as a “house,” which the church visits at Christmas. The last chapter reveals the Gospel of John’s “house.”

Thursday evening, 7 PM-8 PM on Zoom

Meeting ID: 970 0575 7736 | Passcode: justice



Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24

- Family-Friendly Worship with pageant 4 pm. Metropolitan Memorial Campus Sanctuary.
- Candlelight Communion Worship 8 pm. Metropolitan Memorial Campus Sanctuary.
- Community Dinner with Carols and Christmas Story 6pm. Wesley Campus Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Sunday, Dec. 25

- Christmas morning Lessons and Carols 10 am (Metropolitan Memorial Sanctuary)
- Christmas morning worship 11 am (Wesley Sanctuary)

Sunday, Jan. 1

- New Year’s Morning Worship 10 am (Metropolitan Memorial Sanctuary)
- Kwanzaa Celebration 11 am (Wesley Sanctuary)



Reconciling Statement

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.

Pastoral Care: (202)-510-8555, congregationalcare@nationalchurch.org

Share an offering with NUMC here or by depositing cash or checks in the plates which circulate in worship. Thank you!

