

**OCTOBER 25, 2020**



**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

11931 Seven Locks Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 424-4346  
[www.genevapotomac.org](http://www.genevapotomac.org)

**Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor**

## The Gathering

*(Welcome to Virtual Church with Geneva Presbyterian Church! We are honored to worship together with you today and grateful we can gather in this way as the Body of Christ. There will be opportunities for responsive readings and sharing prayer requests during worship; please mute and unmute yourself as directed by the worship leaders. The same goes for singing hymns: your microphone will be turned off, so make a joyful noise and sing with all your heart!)*

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome to the Worship of God**

### **Silence and Introit**

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: God is our dwelling place from year to year and age to age. And yet, we become complacent, forgetting who we are.

**People: We are God's children: made from dust and dirt, filled with the breath of life**

Leader: and set upon this earth to enjoy God, to love God, and to be God's image-bearers.

**People: We are made in God's own image and entrusted with the work of Jesus' Church.**

Leader: As we enter into this time of worship, continue calling to us, Lord! Let us feel your Holy Spirit in our midst, enlivening us and guiding us!

**People: Amen and amen!**

### **Opening Hymn**

#### ***"The God of Abraham Praise"***

The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above;  
the ancient of eternal days,  
the God of love!

The Lord, the great I Am,  
by earth and heaven confessed,  
we bow before your holy name,  
forever blest.

Your Spirit still flows free,  
high surging where it will;  
in prophet's word you spoke of old  
and you speak still.  
Established is your law,  
and changeless it shall stand,  
deep write upon the human heart,  
on sea or land.

You have eternal life  
implanted in the soul;  
your love shall be our strength and stay,  
while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God!  
We praise your holy name;  
who was, and is, and is to be,  
fore'er the same!

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession** *(below in unison, then silent personal prayers)*

Loving God, you are the One who is always on the move. Creating. Re-creating. "Doing a new thing." But we confess that we are too often complacent. We become static. We are fine with the status quo -- especially when the status quo is things just the way we like them.

O Lord forgive us when our spirits become still and our hearts cease to look for what you are doing. Help us to lay down our fear and fill us with the courage to follow the leading of your Holy Spirit. Wash us clean and set us upright again as we pray to you now in silence...

## **Assurance of Pardon**

### **Congregational Response**

***"Gloria Patri"***

**#734**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## **Joys and Concerns**

*(The Virtual Church recording is turned off during this portion of the service for privacy. We will resume recording after the Lord's Prayer.)*

## **Prayers of the People; The Lord's Prayer**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **The Word**

### **Prayer for Illumination** *(in unison)*

Speak to us, living God, as you have spoken to those who came before us: through the voices of your prophets, the breath of your Holy Spirit, and the life of your Song, so that we may live according to your word. Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading**

#### **Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

This is the Word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading**

#### **1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**

This is the Word of the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**    **“After All That, Moses Didn't Step Foot In The Promised Land”**

*Rev. Patrick McElwaine*

### **Affirmation of Faith /The Apostles' Creed** *(in unison)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic\* Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

*(\*meaning all of God's churches)*

# The Thanksgiving

**The Offering**

**Music Offering**

***“God is our Refuge and Strength”***

Allen Pote

**Prayer of Dedication**

## The Sending

**Closing Hymn**

***“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”***

Come sing, O church, in joy!  
Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate  
the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone,  
and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate  
the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend;  
let wisdom be our guide,  
as we in mission magnify the Crucified  
In bold accord, come celebrate  
the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy!  
Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate  
the journey now and praise the Lord!

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**



### ABOUT OUR MUSIC...

You'll notice that our Opening Hymn is shaped by its traditional Jewish tune. This selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the Yigdal, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation. The tune dates back to the 17th century and was adapted by Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers in 1770.

Our Sending Hymn tune is a personal favorite of mine. I can't help but feel overwhelming joy and celebration when I hear it. The text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988-1989 observance, which had the theme "Celebrate the Journey." The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

B E N   S H A V E R



**Names in bold are new prayer list additions.**

The work, worship, pastor and leadership of Geneva and of Iglesia de Dios El Nuevo Pacto

**Comfort for the Family and Friends of**

Lizzy Holyfield, friend of Ben Shaver  
Doris Williamson  
Bill Richards, cousin of Sara Torrence;  
Brian, friend of Kyla Lupo;  
Janelle Connevey Morris, Mother of Janelle Thibau;  
Josephine Kom, Mother of Flore Kom-Liapoe;  
Julie Lynn Zabrocky, daughter of Nancy and Norm Rawson;  
Tyler Allen; son of Mark and Holly Allen.

**Healing and Comfort for**

**Letitia Denaburg, knee surgery;**

Scott Brown, health concerns;  
Betty Halls, health concerns;  
Ruth Irene Harris, mother of Jim Harris;  
Alicia, friend of Rhonda Ricci receiving cancer treatment;  
Norm Rawson, head injury;  
Ann Peters, relative of friend of Ken Sprinkle, upcoming cancer screening and surgery;  
Nancy Morse, health concerns;  
Lorraine Leicht, Renee Moloznik's mother, health issues;  
Maria Lenahan, health concerns;  
Dinah Paffrath, aunt of Renee Moloznik, receiving cancer treatments;  
Beth, friend of Sara Torrence, metastatic breast cancer;  
Carl Perthel, health concerns;  
Jeffrey Remer, brother of Robin Kough, health concerns;  
Isabelle Schuessler, friend of Scott Brown, health concerns;  
Joanne Elder, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, cancer;  
Adeline Siaka, widow of Emmanuel Siaka;  
Mary Bird, aunt of Renee Moloznik, health concerns;  
Linda Hanson, friend of Geneva, health concerns;  
Justin Pack, nephew of PJ Davis, diagnosed with ALS;  
Daniel Adkins, nephew of Kyla and Vince Lupo, health concerns;  
Donald Schuessler, friend of Scott Brown, health concerns;  
Ellie Alexander, health concerns;  
Henry Haller, health concerns;  
Emilia Monte, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, recurring cancer;  
Jeff Leicht, Renee Moloznik's brother;  
Judith Sadler, mother to Tom Sadler, mental illness and PG County guardianship care;  
Leland Perthel, recovering from concussion;  
Madeleine Schinosi, friend of Gretchen Winch, recurring cancer.  
Ray Johnson, father of Katie Harris;  
Samuel Kuate, Flora Kom Liapoe's brother-in-law, recovering from an ischemic stroke;  
Sandy Kichefski, sister of Sheri Sankey, health concerns;  
Sue, friend of Maria Lenahan, health issues;  
Yvonne Bean, mother of Debbie Dunne;  
Zoë, friend of Bob and Rhonda Ricci, health concerns;

**Prayers for Peace**

Daniel Kough, son of Jack and Robin Kough, home from Afghanistan.  
Walter Sprinkle, son of Ken and Nan Sprinkle, US Army Special Training

**WELCOME TO GENEVA!** We welcome you to this church and want you to feel at home. We want you to feel accepted here, and also challenged, even as we invite you to accept and challenge us. If you are new to this community or do not have a church home, we invite you to join us. Please contact a staff member using any of the emails on the back of today's bulletin.



**Birthdays:** Ken Denaburg (10/4); Ed Devine (10/5); Eric Thibau (10/12); Pete Nunn (10/16); Letitia Denaburg (10/18); Patsy Wright (10/23)

## **This Week at Geneva**

Sunday, October 25	10:30am	Worship – <b>Virtual Church</b>
Wednesday, October 28	7:00pm	<b>Virtual Bible Study</b>
Friday, October 30	7:00pm	<b>Geneva Book Club</b>
Sunday, November 1	10:30am	Worship – <b>Virtual Church</b>
Wednesday, November 4	7:00pm	<b>Virtual Bible Study</b>



- Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't forget to turn your clocks back as Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1st at 2 o'clock AM.



- COVID-19 Update

Soon after Geneva Presbyterian Church closed our physical building due to COVID-19 in March, I recall having conversations with ministry colleagues about Easter: would we be back physically in the sanctuary by then? As time continued and we got used to the “new normal” of worshipping and gathering digitally, our milestones kept shifting, too. Would we “be back” by Pentecost? The start of the new school year? By Advent?

Deciding when and how to meet is a challenging decision that churches are making with input from government agencies and healthcare professionals. The Session of Geneva Presbyterian Church has carefully monitored developments these past months and continues to feel strongly that keeping the church building closed for in-person uses is the correct decision to promote safety for our community. Our church staff is collaborating and working well remotely and we will continue in this way.

For now, we will maintain our commitment to sharing the Gospel, serving Jesus, and worshipping together using the digital tools that have served us well. Our “ministry toolbox” has grown in four key ways using Zoom and I encourage you to plug in to each:

1. Virtual Church worship each Sunday @ 10:30am (recordings on church website)
2. Virtual Bible Study each Wednesday @ 7:00pm
3. Periodic Deacon “family group” gatherings

4. The Geneva Book Club on select Fridays @ 7:00pm (calendar in bulletin or Weekly Email)

In terms of next steps, a special team has been working diligently to update our sanctuary with live video streaming and recording capabilities. They are making great strides and we're on the doorstep of physically installing the equipment. We look forward to having a small worship leadership team (myself, Ben, singer/s, and the A/V team) broadcast Sunday service from the sanctuary soon. This will be an "intermediate step" on our road to reopening when the time is right, though live streaming and recording will also be a welcome addition to the life of our church moving forward.

Like each of you, I long for the day our church family can safely gather in person again. Until then, we will continue to love God, love our neighbors, and love each other in ways that prioritize the health and welfare of all. Thank you for continuing to pray and care for our church family with the love of Christ himself.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Patrick

- **Geneva Book Club**

The Geneva Book Club began meeting again via Zoom on Friday, October 23rd from 7–8pm. Continuing with our focus on racial justice and reconciliation, the group is studying ["Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson](#).



Church members, guests, and friends are all welcome -- please feel free to share this invitation with anyone you know who is ready to engage in this work of reflection and learning.

Here is the Zoom link (we will use the same for each sessions):

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9506334929?pwd=dy83RFdTUTliZWJ3MFE0SURI1ZCtTz09>

Meeting ID: 950 633 4929

Passcode: 12345

- **Online Giving with the GivePlus (Give+) App**

You can now support God's ministry through Geneva Presbyterian Church with your smartphone, tablet, or computer! Search for and download "GivePlus" (Give+) from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to get started.



You'll create an account, choose Geneva Presbyterian Church (in Potomac) as your home church, and then you're ready to give in a secure and convenient way!

Here are two resources to help you get set up:

YouTube Video with Instructions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAjqUxK8YRk>

GivePlus Website with a FAQ and "How To"

<https://giveplushelp.vancopayments.com/>

I'm excited to expand our opportunities to give and invite you to explore if Online Giving is the right choice for you. No matter how you choose to give, thank you for your financial generosity -- your support is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and transforming lives every day.

- **Virtual Church with Geneva Presbyterian: Sundays @ 10:30am**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/2SL4E76>

Meeting ID: 668 560 374

Password: 240543

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,668560374# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,668560374# US (New York)

- **Virtual Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 7:00pm**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3c3kscZ>

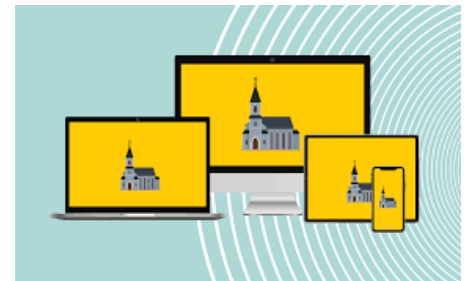
Meeting ID: 273 879 363

Password: 978348

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,273879363#,,1#,978348# US (Germantown)

+16465588656,,273879363#,,1#,978348# US (New York)



- **Geneva Worship Videos**

Did you know that Geneva Virtual Church videos are recorded and online? Missed a service? Want to share with a friend? A full recording of worship is just a click away!

[Click HERE to watch our past Virtual Worship services!](#)



## Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor; Ben Shaver, Musician;  
Sheri Sankey, Lector; Tom Sadler, Zoom Host.

### Church Elders

Jane Campbell, Jack Kough, Carl Perthel,  
Tom Sadler, Sheri Sankey,  
Janelle Thibau, Elaine Winch

### Church Deacons

Ludivine Kom-Liapoe, Bobbie Maxwell,  
Renee Moloznik, Rosie Perthel,  
Rhonda Ricci

*If you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns, please share them with our officers.*



**Geneva warmly welcomes all our guests joining us today**



### **Geneva Staff:**

**Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor,** [pastor.genevapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.genevapotomac@gmail.com)  
**Ben Shaver, Music Director,** [music.genevapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:music.genevapotomac@gmail.com)  
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