

NOVEMBER 29, 2020



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 424-4346
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

We Light the First Candle of Advent

Silence and Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

People: Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Leader: Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near:

People: We are at the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Let us worship and bow down before the God of power and truth!

Opening Hymn

“People, Look East”

#161

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Call to Confession

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

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up. Little by little over time or in great scorching blasts, the outcome is the same. We have trespassed, we have sinned, we have failed to heed your commands, O God.

Yet you love us still. You draw near to us with grace even when we pull away. You are patient with us even when we lash out against you and our neighbor. You are steadfast even when we grow weary in our discipleship. God-With-Us, forgive us and hear us now as we confess to you in silent prayer...

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)*

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: your holy Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive to the Holy Spirit's leading so we can meet you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Mark 13:24-37

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Who Are We Waiting For? The God of Power and Truth”

Rev. Patrick McElwaine

Reception of New Members

Daniel and Jessie Ricci

Affirmation of Faith /The Apostles' Creed *(congregation in bold)*

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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 Welcome (*congregation in bold*)

...Geneva Presbyterian Church, how do we welcome these siblings in Christ?

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.

The Thanksgiving

The Offering

Music Offering

“Light in the Heart of Winter”

arr. Lloyd Larson

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

Closing Hymn

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

#153

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude



About the music...

Today's opening hymn text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated.

Our closing hymn text is set to multiple hymn tunes. The tune we're singing today, known as *Hyfrydol*, is also set to the text "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!" which we sing during the Easter season. With its opening "Come", this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming".) Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Our anthem tune is based on a traditional Irish melody called *Sally Gardens* which gained awareness after Benjamin Britten set accompaniment to it.

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent



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

Bev Davis;

Henry Haller;

Rodger Lusby;

Susan Burbage, friend of Rhonda and Bob Ricci

Doris Williamson;

Brian, friend of Kyla Lupo;

Janelle Connevey Morris, Mother of Janelle Thibau;

Josephine Kom, Mother of Flore Kom-Liapoe;

Julie Lynn Zabucky, daughter of Nancy and Norm Rawson;

Healing and Comfort for

Maria Lenahan, health concerns;

Carole Haller, health concerns;

Norm Rawson, health concerns;

Daniel Ricci, prayers for job search;

George Ehler, relative of friend of Ken Sprinkle, health concerns;

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;

Nancy Morse, health concerns;

Lorraine Leicht, Renee Moloznik's mother, health issues;

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;

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 Kichiefski, 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: Isabelle Thibau (12/3); Francisco Fuentes (12/3); Daniel Ricci (12/3); Carter Harris (12/12); Jim Kaufmann (12/16); Ludivine Kom-Liapoe (12/14); Brent Davis (12/17); Toni Millet (12/28); Julien Weinstein (12/31).

This Week at Geneva

Sunday, November 29	10:30am	Worship – Virtual Church
Wednesday, December 2	7:00pm	Virtual Bible Study
Friday, December 4	7:00pm	Book Club
Sunday, December 6	10:30am	Worship – Virtual Church
Wednesday, December 9	7:00pm	Virtual Bible Study



One of Geneva's loveliest traditions is the beautiful **Advent wreath and candles** that we light in anticipation of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. What makes Geneva's Advent wreath so special to all of us is that it is the result of a labor of love for Geneva by faithful members of our congregation.

Dottie Renoe started the tradition and made the Advent wreath and candles for many years. Thereafter, the Geneva Presbyterian Women took on the task of seeing to the beautiful wreath and the Advent candles. In the early 1990s, and for the next 30 or so years, Doris Murray began making the candles and both Doris and Barbara Prosswimmer took over the making of the wreath by using the juniper bushes growing on the church grounds. In 2005, when the junipers were not as abundant, the church turned to York Flowers to make the wreath, and the task of making the candles was then taken over by Cynthia Kaufmann. **In 2015, Ken Denaburg and some of the staff of York Flowers graciously offered to take over the task of making the unique candles. We wish to express our appreciation to Ken and his talented staff for the lovely candles and beautiful heather wreath.**

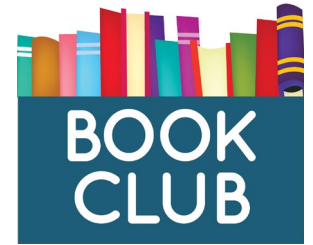
The Advent wreath is a circle symbolizing God's eternal love. The homemade candles range in color from deep purple signifying the kingship or royalty of Christ, and getting successively lighter each week of Advent ending in white on Christmas Eve celebrating the birth of Christ. The paraments are also changed to white on Christmas Eve. White is the symbol of purity, innocence of the soul and the holiness of life. Finally, the wreath is adorned with heather. The heather is appropriate, not only for its color, but it grows in Scotland, which is also the origin of the Presbyterian Church. John Knox brought the teachings of John Calvin to Scotland in 1560.

- **Bible Study**

Geneva Presbyterian's Virtual Bible Study will **not** meet on Wednesday, November 25th. We're taking a break for Thanksgiving but we'll see you back next week.

- **Geneva Book Club**

The Geneva Book Club will be taking a week off for Thanksgiving and then start back up Dec. 4th at 7:00pm.



The next book the group will study is *The Mood of Christmas* by Howard Thurman – since we'll be in the Christmas season! The Zoom link will stay the same.

Click [Here](#) for the Amazon Link to purchase the book!

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=dy83RFdTUTliZWJ3MFEOSR1ZCtTZz09>

Meeting ID: 950 633 4929

Passcode: 12345

- **Advent Goodie Bags are coming your way!**

The Advent Season begins on Sunday, November 29 and continues until Christmas Day, December 25. The Deacons and your Fellowship Committee have created an Advent Goodie Bag filled with Advent activities and



goodies for you and your family. Look for the bags to be delivered this week. We wish you a blessed and joyous Advent season.

The Goodie Bags include:

- Advent Wreath: Your Advent Wreath can be easily assembled and used during our Sunday services. Light one candle each Sunday of Advent.
- Advent 2020 Acts of Kindness: This envelope contains 24 different ways to show acts of kindness to your family or community. There are also blank cards for you to add other ideas for acts of kindness.
- Advent Scripture Calendar: This envelope contains 24 cards with a beautiful picture of a wreath and a specific scripture. Each day is paired with a section of scripture going through the Christmas story, and a discussion question to dive deeper into what Christmas is all about. We hope that you will look forward to getting your family or friends together every night this December to read the Word of God and discuss its meaning. The final card is a beautiful picture that can be framed in a 5 x 7 inch frame.
- Christmas Bingo: You will receive several Christmas Bingo cards and Bingo markers to be used for our Zoom Bingo Game. Our Bingo Game will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 PM. Zoom information will be sent out by Friday, December 11. Prizes will be delivered to winners the week after the game.
- Christmas Ornaments for our children: Wooden ornaments are provided along with markers and stickers, so you can create your own personal ornaments for your Christmas tree.
- Geneva ornament: Every family will receive a special ornament from Geneva for your tree.
- Delicious goodies – cookies, candies and nuts!! Oh Yum!

- **Grace and Gratitude:**

As Presbyterians we are a people rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ. It is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation and peace.

Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted, and sharing our faith with young and old. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.

Each gift in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog exemplifies the work prayerfully carried out by ministries of Presbyterian Mission. The purchase and distribution of animals, the building of wells to provide life-giving clean water to entire communities, and ministries to youth and young adults are among the ways your gift is filling a need, making an impact, and providing hope here in the United States and around the globe.

This holiday season Geneva will be participating in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog mission. We will be collecting donations through December 31st. All gifts can be life changing for the recipient.

How can you give?

– Choose the gift you'd like to give.

Sample items you can purchase:

Supplies for Displaced Students \$30
Kitchen Kit \$25
Rainwater Catchment System \$75
Piglet \$40
Farming Tools \$10

Fishing Net \$15
Refugee Food Basket \$50
Jerry Cans \$25
Family of Chickens \$25
Rice Seeds \$15



– Make your check payable to “Geneva Presbyterian Church” mail to the church office:

11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854

– All checks must be received by December 31st.

Thank you for your generosity,
Rhonda Ricci, Fellowship
Jane Campbell, Mission

- **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>

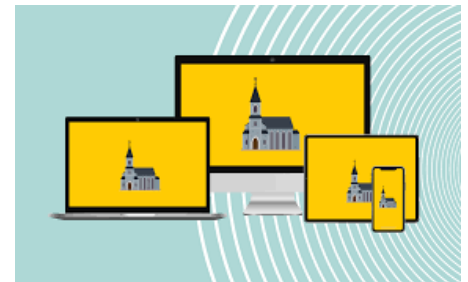
Meeting ID: 273 879 363

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;

Jane Campbell, 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

Ben Shaver, Music Director, music.genevapotomac@gmail.com

Melissa Cutler, Office Administrator, melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com

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