

DECEMBER 6, 2020



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 424-4346
www.genevapotomac.org

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor

Get Prepared For Virtual Communion This Sunday In Worship!

This Sunday we will be sharing the sacrament of The Lord's Supper digitally during Virtual Church. Here's how it will work and here is how you can prepare:

– **Gather your own communion elements from around your home ahead of worship Sunday morning.** Jesus chose common foods of his day for the first communion: bread and "fruit of the vine". What common starch do you have available? In countries around the world, the commonly available starch is tortillas and rice, so those are used. What beverage feels right for you to use? Not everyone has juice in the home, so we might need to be creative.

– Please: in preparing for communion and choosing your elements, do so thoughtfully and with reverence for the sacrament we will share.

– **I will gather my own elements at home and lead liturgy as we are used to.** Since we are gathered for worship as a community in the way that is possible for us right now, my prayers will serve as a blessing for all of our elements.

It's a joy to share to share the Lord's Supper together – let us gather at Jesus' table!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Patrick

Geneva Presbyterian Church

December 6, 2020

10:30am

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 Second Candle of Advent

Silence and Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness,

People: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear."

Leader: We are waiting and we are watching, Lord, make yourself known to us in our worship today.

People: We are seeking and we are preparing, Lord, call to us again with your invitation to discipleship in our worship today.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent and bow down, Messiah is coming!

Opening Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

#181

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the Source, the Ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;

and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

Call to Confession

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

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We have too often indulged in all the wrong things.

We repent of these offences and turn to you in love. We are ready to change but we know we need your help. Forgive all in us that needs forgiving and pardon our sins, so that we may walk your narrow path that leads to abundant life. Lord, in your mercy, hear the silent prayers of our hearts...

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)*

God of eternity, we seek your wisdom and your grace in the reading and hearing of scripture. Be at work through the power of the Holy Spirit to help us understand, believe, and heed your word to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Mark 1:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Grass And Flowers Waiting On Eternity”

Rev. Patrick McElwaine

Affirmation of Faith *(in unison)*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Philippians 2:5-11

The Thanksgiving

The Offering

Music Offering

“Christmas Is Coming”

Joel Raney

Prayer of Dedication

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Communion Prayer

The Sending

Closing Hymn

“Love Has Come”

Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother.

What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come, He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude



About the music

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in the text of our opening hymn, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle ages. Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th century; translated by John Mason Neale, 1854.

Our closing hymn today is a familiar tune- *Bring A Torch!* It's a chance to sing a familiar French carol with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

December 6, 2020
Second 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

Rosie Perthel, health concerns

Jim Stiles, hospitalized with COVID-19;

Scott Brown, health concerns;

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;

Betty Halls, health concerns;

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

This Week at Geneva

Sunday, December 6	10:30am	Worship – Virtual Church
Wednesday, December 9	7:00pm	Virtual Bible Study
Friday, December 11	7:00pm	Book Club
Sunday, December 13	10:30am	Worship – Virtual Church
Wednesday, December 16	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.

- **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:

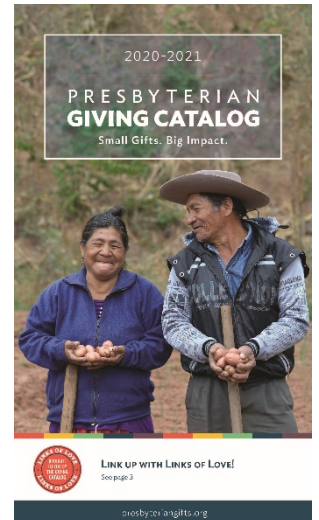
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Supplies for Displaced Students \$30 | Fishing Net \$15 |
| Kitchen Kit \$25 | Refugee Food Basket \$50 |
| Rainwater Catchment System \$75 | Jerry Cans \$25 |
| Piglet \$40 | Family of Chickens \$25 |
| Farming Tools \$10 | 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



- **Geneva Book Club**

The Geneva Book Club has started back Dec. 4th at 7:00pm.

The 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=dy83RFdTUTliZWJ3MFE0S1RlZCtTZz09>

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>

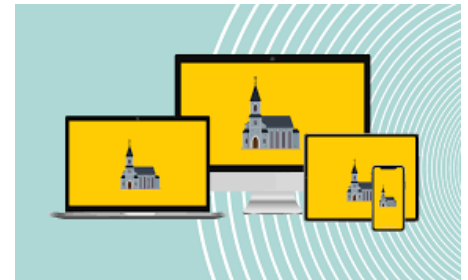
Meeting ID: 273 879 363

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;
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
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