

DECEMBER 13, 2020



THIRD 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 Third Candle of Advent

Silence and Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

People: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Leader: What does the Holy One require of us?

People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

All: We are gathered to worship, let us sing praises to the Lord, the Almighty!

Opening Hymn

“To a Maid Whose Name was Mary”

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.
“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news;
Good news I come to tell you, good news, I say good news.”

“For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
Who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
You are most blest most blessed; God chose you, you are blest!”

But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word.
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
To hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.

“Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.

His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."

"How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High
Will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready according to your word."

Call to Confession

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

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives and ignore your call to holiness. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to seek your way, and to seek the things that will endure when Christ comes to reign in fullness. O Lord, hear us as we lift our personal prayers 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)*

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 126

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

New Testament Reading

Luke 1:46-55

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

Sermon

“Justice So Complete It Feels Like A Dream” *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

“I Wonder as I Wander”

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

Closing Hymn

“Mary did you know?”

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the mute will speak the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude



About the music

Today's opening hymn is an new one for our congregation! This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the Annunciation displays many characteristics of a folk-song style, especially repetition in both text and tune and short quotations included in the narrative. Such features help to make a song both memorable and singable. *Mary, did you know?* was written and composed by Mark Lowry in 1991. He recalls that Jerry Falwell asked him to write the program for the 1985 Living Christmas Tree. As he was writing it, he thought of something his mother had said "If anyone on earth knew for sure that Jesus was virgin born - Mary knew!" This inspired him to start wondering if she knew how special her baby boy was. He wrote down the lyrics and carried them for the next 7 years.

December 13 , 2020

Third 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

Norm Rawson;

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

Kristin, a friend in need of prayer

Ellie Croft, friend of Gretchen Winch, health concerns;

Rosie Perthel, health concerns

Jim Stiles, hospitalized with COVID-19;

Scott Brown, health concerns;

Maria Lenahan, health concerns;

Carole Haller, 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;

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); Emmanuel Mbi (12/25); Toni Millet (12/28); Julien Weinstein (12/31).

This Week at Geneva

Friday, December 11	7:00pm	Book Club
Sunday, December 13	10:30am	Worship – Virtual Church
Sunday, December 13	4:00pm	Christmas Bingo
Wednesday, December 16	7:00pm	Virtual Bible Study
Friday, December 18	7:00pm	Book Club
Sunday, December 20	10:30am	Worship – Virtual Church
Monday, December 21	7:00pm	Meeting – Executive Committee
Thursday, December 24	5:30pm	Worship – Christmas Eve Service



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
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

Click [here](#) to donate to Geneva's "Special Gifts" Account

- 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.

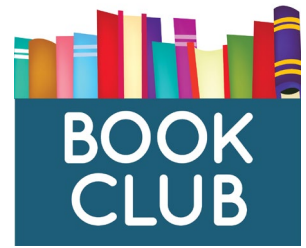
Thank you for your generosity,
Rhonda Ricci, Fellowship
Jane Campbell, Mission



- **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!

Geneva Book Club will **NOT** meet in the month of January but will restart in February studying "[For All Who Hunger](#)" by Emily M.D. Scott on Fridays @ 7:00pm.

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=dy83RFdTUTliZWJ3MFEOSTR1ZCtTZz09>

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>

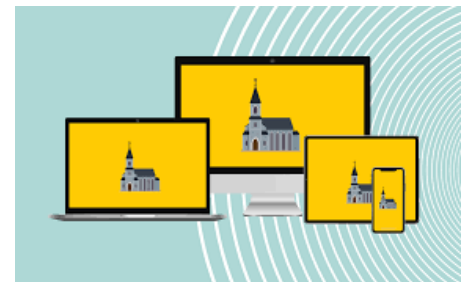
Meeting ID: 273 879 363

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, Music Director;
Alice Franks, 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
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