

DECEMBER 20, 2020



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor

Geneva Presbyterian Church

December 20, 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 Fourth Candle of Advent

Silence and Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;

People: the whole earth is full of God's glory.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, we await you with expectant hearts.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, lead our worship and speak to us of The Holy One of Israel.

Opening Hymn **"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"** #160(verses 1,2 & 4)

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
Behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
To bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heavenly door
And lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a singing;
His humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
Music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness.
The thunder of his anthems rolls
to shatter all hatred and violence.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light;
Be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share
And bring us at last into glory!

Call to Confession

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

O God, you tell us to keep awake, to watch for your coming through the night and all our days. You tell us to live according to your Word, following in Jesus' footsteps and Emmanuel's ways. But we get impatient. We doubt your promises. We follow our own desires. We close our ears as if it could keep our hearts from knowing your will.

Lord of mercy, hear the honest prayers of our contrite hearts today. Raise us up and reassure us of your forgiving grace. We repent and rededicate ourselves as your disciples in this moment. In silence, we offer to you that which we tremble to name aloud...

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 Mystery, we seek your wisdom and your way. Testify to us by the voice of your Holy Spirit so that in your light we may truly see and in your truth find freedom. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Romans 16:25-27

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Mystery Revealed"

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

“Rise Up Shepherd and Follow!”

arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

Closing Hymn

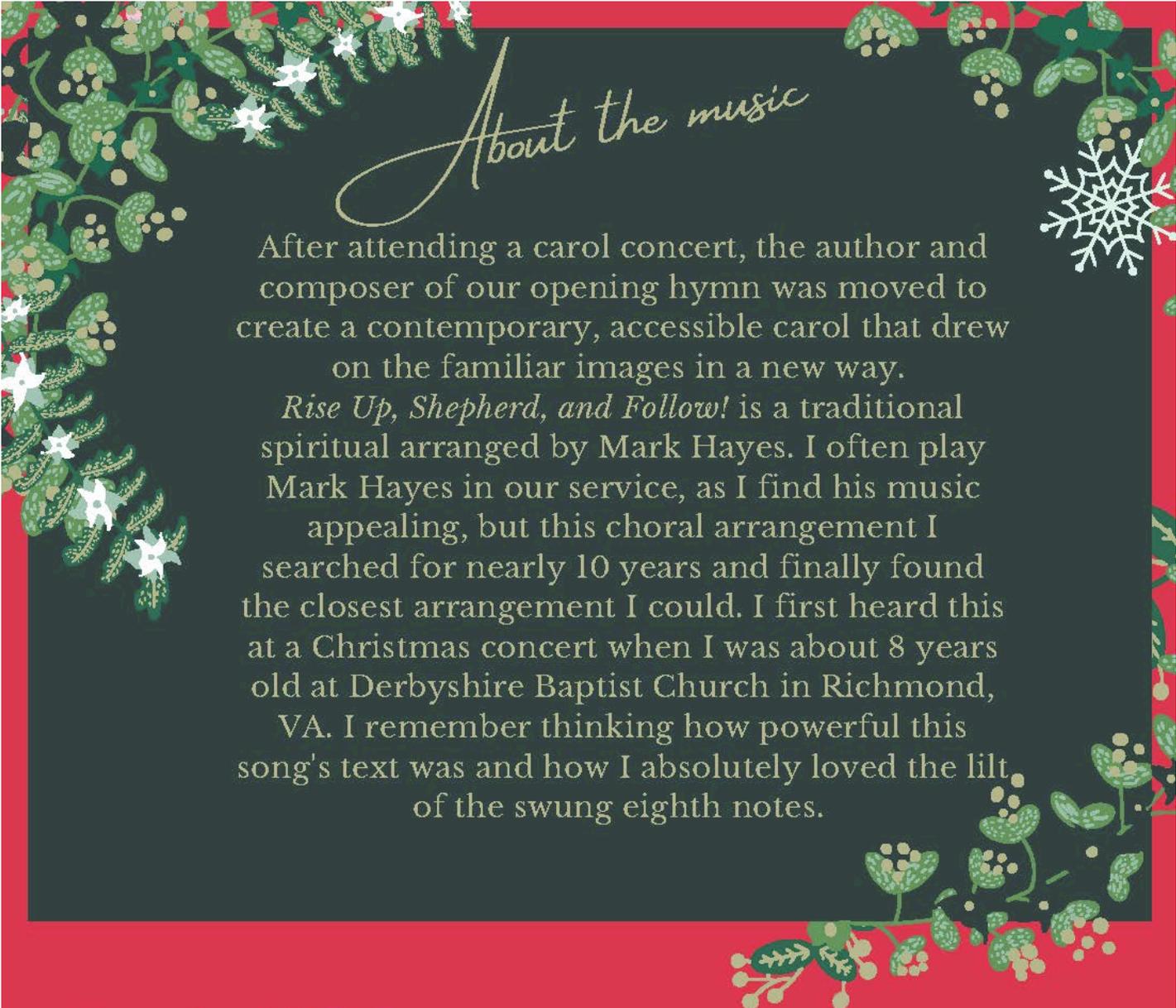
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

#178

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called, Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us
His name is called, Emmanuel
(Sing 3x)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude



About the music

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of our opening hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way.

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow! is a traditional spiritual arranged by Mark Hayes. I often play Mark Hayes in our service, as I find his music appealing, but this choral arrangement I searched for nearly 10 years and finally found the closest arrangement I could. I first heard this at a Christmas concert when I was about 8 years old at Derbyshire Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. I remember thinking how powerful this song's text was and how I absolutely loved the lilt of the swung eighth notes.

December 20, 2020
Fourth 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

Maria Lenahan;

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

Rosalie Ruff, health concerns;

Carole Haller, health concerns;

Kristin, a friend in need of prayer

Ellie Croft, friend of Gretchen Winch, health concerns;

Rosie Perthel, health concerns;

Jim Stiles, recovering from COVID-19;

Scott Brown, 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 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
Sunday, December 27	10:30am	Worship – Virtual Church led by Sara Sadler



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

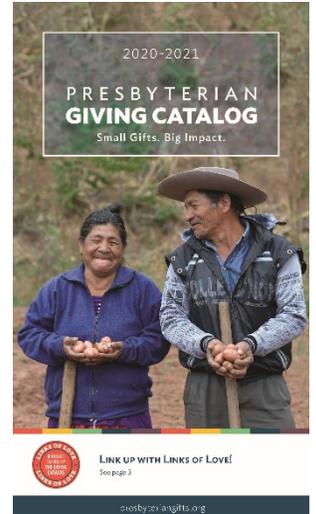
Click [here](#) to donate to Geneva's "Special Gifts" Account

- 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 Christmas Singalong – Sunday, December 20 at 12:00 PM.**

Please join our Geneva Singalong with Ben and Renee. It will be held after our Sunday service at 12:00 PM. The information for the Zoom is below:



Topic: Geneva Christmas Singalong Zoom Meeting

Time: Dec 20, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77602113083?pwd=a3JHV0Q2QzNFWitubEhDWTRHSVRsUT09>

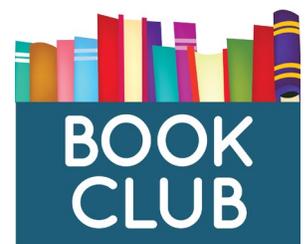
Meeting ID: 776 0211 3083

Passcode: x6YPA4

- **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=dy83RFdTUTliZWJ3MFE0S0R1ZCtTZz09>

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)

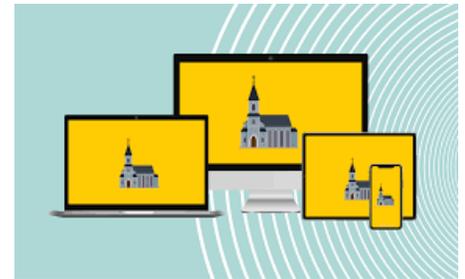
+16465588656,,668560374# US (New York)

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

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

Meeting ID: 273 879 363

Password: 978348



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+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

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

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

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