

**DECEMBER 24, 2020**



# CHRISTMAS EVE

**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor**

**Geneva Presbyterian Church**  
*Lessons and Carols by Candlelight*

December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve

5:30pm

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**Prelude**

**“Sinfonia from Messiah”**

*G.F. Handel*

**Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

*Tom Sadler*

**Call to Worship**

**J. W. Howell**

Leader: Tonight old dreams pass away and new dreams come to life.  
The promise is fulfilled!

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

Leader: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

Leader: Our candles illuminate God’s story. Dawn comes to the land of midnight.  
The Light of the World has come.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

Leader: And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame within the soul, warming us  
from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-  
alive in human flesh: within us, among us, now and always.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to all!**

**Gathering Carol**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**#182 (vs. 1, 2)**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him,  
born the King of angels; O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing all ye citizens of heav’n above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**A Christmas Prayer**

**Time for Children**

*Renee Moloznik*

**Our Christmas Eve Offering**

**Offertory**

**“Away in a Manger”**  
*Geneva Handbell Quartet*

*arr. Tammy Waldrop*

## Prayer of Dedication

Carol ***“Once in Royal David’s City”*** #183 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;  
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:  
And He leads His children on to the place where He has gone.

First Lesson ***Isaiah 9:2, 6*** Tom Sadler

Carol ***“For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth”*** G.F Handel  
*Ben Shaver, Baritone*

Second Lesson ***Micah 5:2-4*** Robyn Alexander

Carol ***“E’en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come”*** Paul Manz  
*Melissa Wimbish, Soprano*

Third Lesson ***Luke 1:26-33, 38*** Daniel Ricci

Carol ***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*** #180

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Amen.

**Fourth Lesson** ***Luke 2:1-7*** *Sara Sadler*

**Carol** **“In the Bleak Midwinter”** *Gustov Holst*  
*Melissa Wimbish, Soprano*

**Fifth Lesson** ***Luke 2:8-14*** *Melissa Wimbish*

**Carol** **“Cradle Hymn”** *Kim Andre Anderson*  
*Geneva Sanctuary Choir*

**Sixth Lesson** ***Luke 2:15-20*** *Jessie Ricci*

**Carol** **“*Away in a Manger*”** **#203**

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He  
lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

**Seventh Lesson** ***John 1:1-5, 14, 16*** *Mike Sydoriak*

**Carol** **“Fantasia on Greensleeves”** *Ralph Vaughan Williams*

**Christmas Homily** **“The Sound of God’s Coming”** *Rev. Patrick McElwaine*

Geneva tradition is to light candles together at this point of the service by passing the flame from the Christ Candle.  
Since we are worshipping from a distance this evening, we ask that you please:

-- Turn on your video camera if you are comfortable doing so  
-- Lift your candle, tea light, hands, or heart in celebration as the words below are read

### Passing the Christmas Flame

*written by Elaine Brasted*

So holy is this wondrous night,  
that our hearts are filled with joy,  
for God turned darkness into light,  
With the birth of a baby boy.  
The heavens rejoice, the angels sing,  
And the whole world in reply  
Praises the Messiah, the anointed king  
With glory to God on high.  
May the glow of this candle light our way  
To reach out to those in need,  
So as faithful servants day by day,  
We may serve God's people indeed.

### Carol

#### ***“Silent Night! Holy Night!”***

**#186**

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child;  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure Light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

### Moment for Silent Prayer

### Carol

#### ***“Joy to the World”***

**#179 (vs. 1 & 4)**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.  
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

**Benediction**

*Rev. Patrick McElwaine*

**Carol**

***“O Come, All Ye Faithful”***

**#182 (vs. 3)**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord. Amen.

**Postlude**

***“We Wish You A Merry Christmas”***

*Geneva Handbell Quartet*



## *About the music*

Lessons and carols began in December 1918 at King's College, Cambridge to celebrate the end of World War I. The new college Dean, Eric Milner-White, had been an Army Chaplain in WWI and wanted a more positive way of celebrating Christmas for the choir and people in the college. Since 1919, 'Once in Royal David's City' begins the service and we still read the same lessons/readings today that were set 101 years ago. The BBC radio first broadcast the service in 1928, and apart from 1930, it has been broadcast every year since.

Our tradition at Geneva is to have our Handbell Quartet play, but due to the pandemic, that made getting together challenging. The Alexander family have offered their musical talents for us this evening playing two Austrian carols, "Still, Still, Still" and "Silent Night". This year we are offering a singing of our fifth lesson from Handel's Messiah.

**December 24, 5:30 pm**

Christmas Eve Service

# *Guest Musicians*

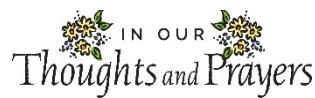
Patricia Wnek    Kristin Bakkegard  
Paul Bagley    Molly Jones Castrucci  
Melissa Wimbish



## **Geneva Handbell Quartet**

Ellie Alexander  
Jeff Alexander  
Parker Alexander  
Robyn Alexander





**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;

Josephine Kom, Mother of Flore Kom-Liapoe;

Julie Lynn Zabrocky, 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 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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*from*

*Patrick, Ben & Melissa*

### **Pastor Patrick on Vacation**

Pastor Patrick will be on vacation December 25 - January 2. If you have a pastoral need during this time please contact your Deacon. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and many thanks to Sara Sadler for leading worship on December 27!





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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

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>

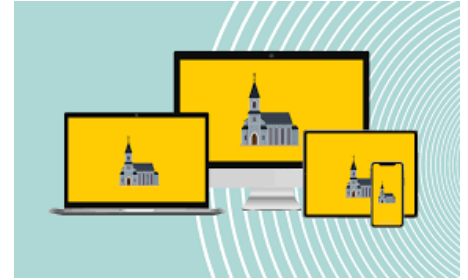
Meeting ID: 273 879 363

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, Music Director;  
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](mailto:pastor.genevapotomac@gmail.com)**  
**Ben Shaver, Music Director, [music.genevapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:music.genevapotomac@gmail.com)**  
**Melissa Cutler, Office Administrator, [melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com)**

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