

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**



**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor**

# Geneva Presbyterian Church

February 21, 2021

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**

### **Silence and Introit**

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: People of the Covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.

**People: God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love!**

Leader: The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

**People: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; this Lent and all our days, we put our trust in God.**

### **Opening Hymn**

### **"The Glory of These Forty Days"**

**#165**

The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise,  
for Christ, by whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law.  
And to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steed and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
delivered from the lion's might.

And John, the Savior's friend, became  
the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant that we like them be true,  
consumed in fast and prayer with you;  
our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
and give us joy to see your face.

## **Call to Confession**

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

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and choose ourselves at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths of our own making instead of yours.

O Patient One, remember us and your Covenant of grace in Jesus Christ as we come to you now 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)*

Almighty God, in every season and circumstance we need your sustaining Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, show us your signs of hope this day so that we may repent, believe, and live as your faithful people. Amen.

## **Old Testament Reading**

### **Genesis 9:8-17**

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

## **New Testament Reading**

### **Mark 9:9-15**

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

### **“Rainbows and Elijah”**

*Rev. Patrick McElwaine*

## **Affirmation of Faith /The Apostles’ Creed** *(in unison)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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 Thanksgiving**

## **The Offering**

## **Music Offering**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

# **The Sending**

## **Closing Hymn**

### **“God of the Sparrow”**

God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home

Charge and Benediction

Postlude



## *About the Music...*

Our opening hymn, appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's Cantata 126.

Our closing hymn lacks punctuation which makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.



**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**

**Dick Sanderson;**

Crayton Brock, husband of Bobbie Maxwell's cousin, Janice Brock

Jeffrey Remer, brother of Robin Kough;

Maria Lenahan;

Norm Rawson;

Bev Davis;

Henry Haller;

Brian, friend of Kyla Lupo;

Josephine Kom, Mother of Flore Kom-Liapoe;

**Healing and Comfort for**

**Rachelle, Kyla Lupo's dear friend, and all who work and volunteer at the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants in Chicago;**

**Jim Torrence, health concerns;**

Ken Adams, father of Juliet Hiemberg, recovering from COVID-19;

Rosie Perthel, health concerns;

Briana Cochran, cousin of Thibau Family, health concerns;

Rosalie Ruff, health concerns;

Kristin, a friend in need of prayer

Ellie Croft, friend of Gretchen Winch, 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;

Isabelle Schuessler, friend of Scott Brown, health concerns;

Joanne Elder, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, cancer;

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;

Sandy Kichefski, sister of Sheri Sankey, health concerns;

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:** Manuela McCall (2/6); Lia Crecelius (2/6); Janelle Thibau (2/14);  
Johnny Thibau (2/17); Curtis Chimba (2/18);  
Elaine Winch (2/19); Gabrielle Levy (2/23); Rosie Perthel (2/23); Heinz Nagel (2/23);  
Margo Hunt (2/24); Thomas Devine (2/25); Ryan Alexander (2/25)

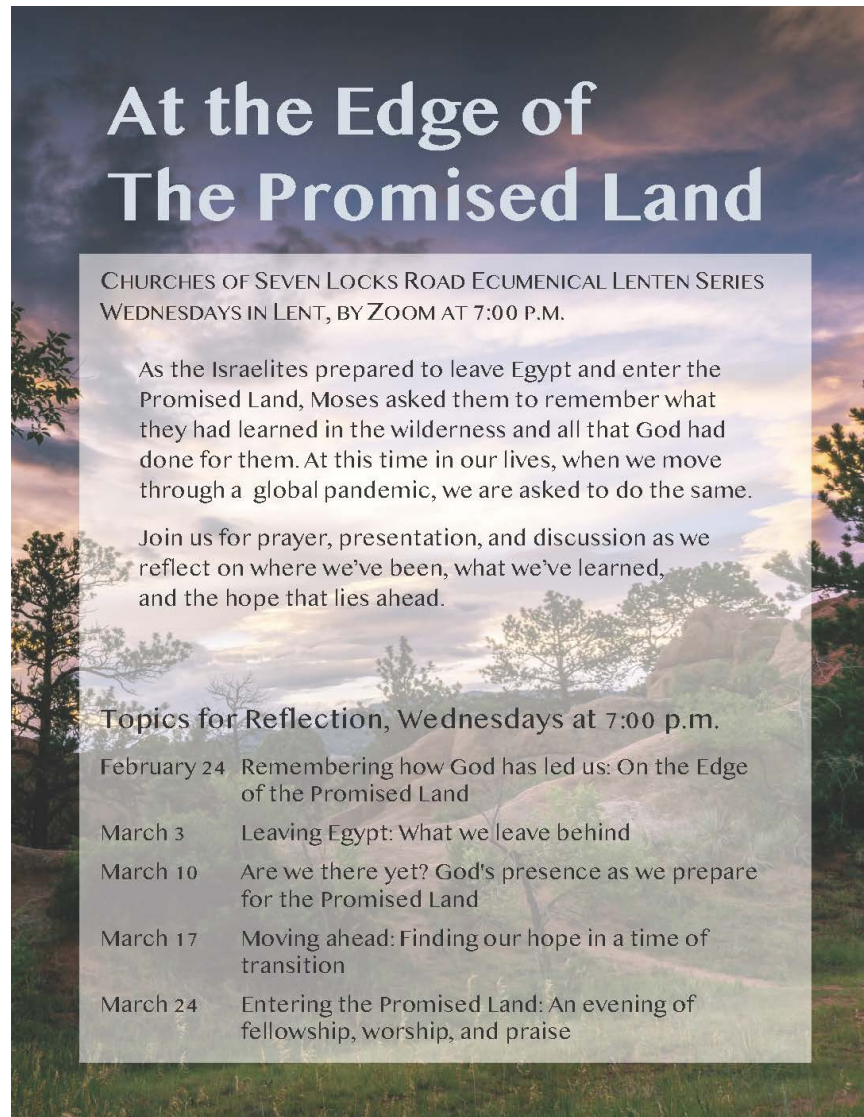
## This Week at Geneva

Friday, February 19	7:00pm	<b>Virtual Book Club</b>
Sunday, February 21	10:30am	Worship – <b>Virtual Church</b>
Monday, February 22	7:00pm	<b>Session Meeting</b>
Wednesday, February 24	7:00pm	<b>Ecumenical Lenten Study</b>
Friday, February 26	7:00pm	<b>Virtual Book Club</b>
Sunday, February 28	10:30am	Worship – <b>Virtual Church</b>
Sunday, February 28	11:45am	<b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>



- **Ecumenical Lenten Study: Wednesdays in Lent via Zoom @ 7:00pm**

Geneva's normal Wednesday Bible Study will take a brief break during Lent so that we can join the annual Ecumenical Lenten Study series that is happening on the same night at the same time. We'll join with our neighboring Seven Locks Rd. churches for an exciting and timely study led by a different Seven Locks pastor each night. Please see the included series flyer for full details!



# At the Edge of The Promised Land

CHURCHES OF SEVEN LOCKS ROAD ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERIES  
WEDNESDAYS IN LENT, BY ZOOM AT 7:00 P.M.

As the Israelites prepared to leave Egypt and enter the Promised Land, Moses asked them to remember what they had learned in the wilderness and all that God had done for them. At this time in our lives, when we move through a global pandemic, we are asked to do the same.

Join us for prayer, presentation, and discussion as we reflect on where we've been, what we've learned, and the hope that lies ahead.

**Topics for Reflection, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

February 24	Remembering how God has led us: On the Edge of the Promised Land
March 3	Leaving Egypt: What we leave behind
March 10	Are we there yet? God's presence as we prepare for the Promised Land
March 17	Moving ahead: Finding our hope in a time of transition
March 24	Entering the Promised Land: An evening of fellowship, worship, and praise

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://zoom.us/j/99023610934>

**Meeting ID: 990 2361 0934**  
**Passcode: 615631**

- **NEW Logo**

In addition to a new church website, Geneva Presbyterian Church has a new logo to match! We worked with WorshipTimes, our website design company, to design a logo that tells the story of The Little Church with the Big Heart.



Central is our eye catching and beloved circular stained glass window above the choir loft in the sanctuary. The stained glass then flows out organically in a dynamic and engaging swirl of color. This "stained glass pathway"

connects our church with the world: it is both a path welcoming the world into our community and a path leading us out in service.

The butterfly is an ancient Christian symbol of resurrection; it also communicates our commitment to earth care and our relationship with Geneva Day School, whose logo also features a monarch butterfly.

Rooted in Christ, creative, connected, forward-looking, and welcoming -- a picture really is worth a thousand words!

- **New Church Website**

The address is the same (<http://genevapotomac.org/>) but Geneva Presbyterian has a whole new website!

Our new church website is a welcoming "front porch" for visitors, seekers, and the world at large - and you can now give directly through the website without downloading the GivePlus app! This site is our first introduction to communicate who we are, whose we are, and what we're all about as a community of faith. Please explore the site for yourself and share it with others: after all, word of mouth has always been the best way to share the Gospel!

I hope you'll also be sure to thank our dedicated Website Team who has diligently seen this project through from vision to reality these past months: Rolf Winch, Jane Campbell, Sheri Sankey, and Rosie Perthel.

- **Geneva Book Club**

The Geneva Book Club will continue 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 **NEW** Zoom link (we will use the same for each sessions):

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85993671723?pwd=Q3ZMS2lrWU9xMUhyU0xCNWtGVHJlZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 859 9367 1723

**Passcode:** 143085

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

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

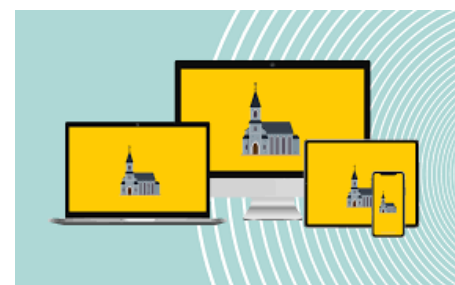
**Meeting ID:** 273 879 363

**Password:** 978348

**One tap mobile**

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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;  
Mark Allen, 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)  
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