

DECEMBER 12, 2021



THIRD 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 12, 2021

10:30am

The Gathering

Welcome to worship with Geneva Presbyterian Church! Whether you're joining us online or in person, we're glad you're here and grateful to be gathered as a community united in Christ. In person worshippers have the option to sing during worship since we are all wearing masks.

We greet with open arms and open hearts guests and new church members across the full diversity of life, including differences in sex, gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, range of abilities, marital status, family structure, financial means, and education.

No matter who you are, you are welcome here and we hope you will feel home at Geneva.

Prelude

Welcome to the Worship of God

We Light the Third Candle of Advent

Wreath Lighting Response

Leader: Come, Root of Jesse, spring forth as a sign of your Lordship for all the world to see.

People: Come, Giver of Living Water, remind us that you nourish us in the deserts we tread and bring forth new life even in the most unexpected places.

Opening Hymn

"In the Bleak Midwinter"
(Lyrics on next page)

#144

In the Bleak Midwinter

144

1 In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid-win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 ‡ wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.
 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM
 Irregular

Call to Confession

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

God Of The Present Future, you are coming to be for us the way and the truth and the life. We confess that we have not truly expected your kingdom to be arriving. We accept lies as truth, exploit our neighbors, and are too often the enemies of justice and peace.

God With Us, Emmanuel, have mercy and forgive us of our sinfulness. Awaken our hearts to the ways you are already among us in the “ordinary” stuff of daily life. Show us your grace as we approach you in silent prayer...

Assurance of Pardon


Congregational Response

SERVICE MUSIC

582


Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F




1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7




and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

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)*

Prepare us, O God, to receive the blessed word of your holy scriptures. And, having heard, help us to believe, follow, and fully live in the light of the Messiah we claim as our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-55

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Revelation 1:9-16

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The One Who Wears the Belt of Righteousness and a Sash of Gold"

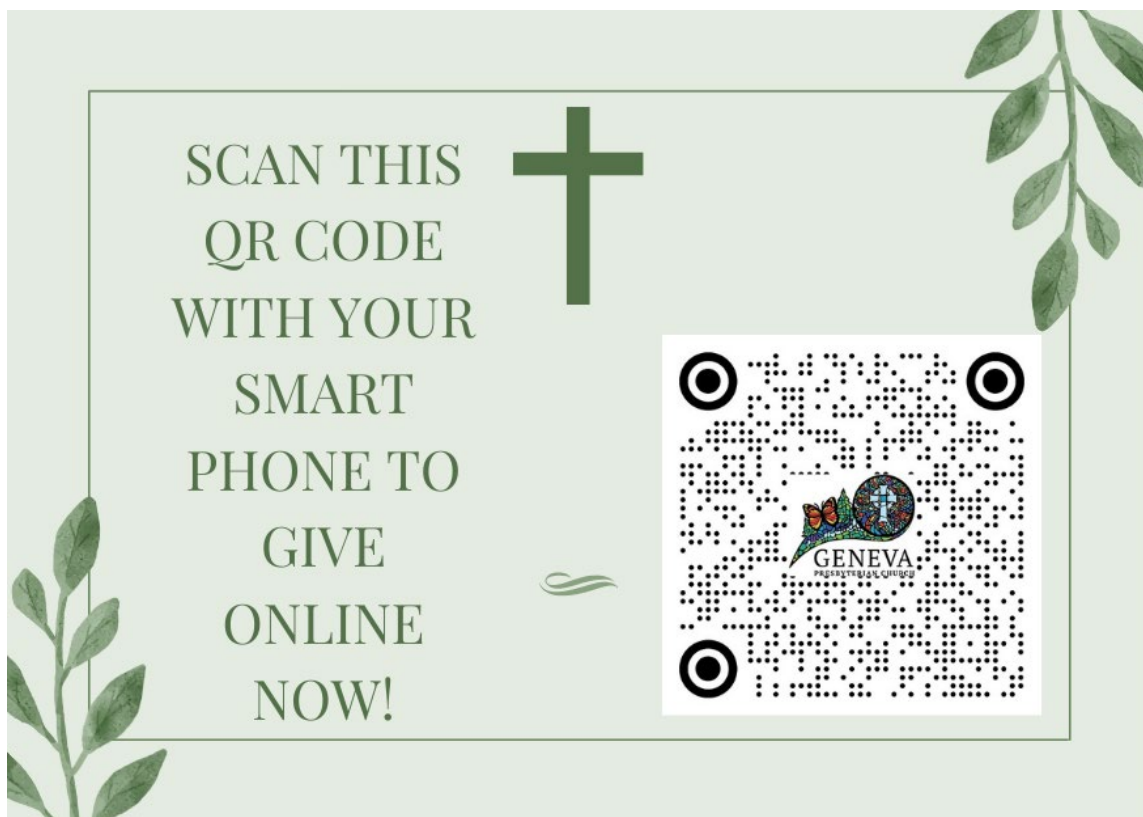
Rev. Patrick McElwaine

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

“Love Has Come!”

#110

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being “Love.” The senses “seen and heard” (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: “Love is the gift of Christmas.”

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
 MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
 Text © 1996 LNWymns.com (admin. Music Services)
 Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH
 9.9.10.9.9.8

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

About the Music...

Though *In the Bleak Midwinter* winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

Love Has Come! is a new text set to a familiar French carol tune. The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."



The work, worship, pastor and leadership of Geneva.

Comfort for the Family and Friends of

Elaine Brasted;

Jim Torrence;

Ray Johnson, father of Katie Harris;

Ruth Harris, mother of Jim Harris

Derrick Brown, family of Scott Brown

Healing and Comfort for

Barbara and Paul Prosswimmer, health concerns;

Rosie Perthel, health concerns;

Carole Haller, health concerns;

Bill Bryan, father of Letitia Denaburg, health concerns;

Pepe Marin, continued treatment for cancer;

Diane Skinner, Allyson McElwaine's mom, shoulder surgery

Jack, friend of Kyla and Vince Lupo

Scott Brown, health concerns;

Nancy Rawson, hip replacement surgery

Robin Kough, cancer treatment

Tomoko Alexander, mother of Jeff Alexander, recovering from a fall and hip surgery

Beverly Pitts Cain, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, surgery from brain tumor

Rachelle, Kyla Lupo's friend, and the helpers at the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants in Chicago;

Ken Adams, father of Juliet Hiemberg, health concerns;

Briana Cochran, cousin of Thibau Family, health concerns;

Rosalie Ruff, health concerns;

Ellie Croft, friend of Gretchen Winch, health concerns;

George Ehler, relative of friend of Ken Sprinkle, health concerns;

Betty Halls, health concerns;

Lorraine Leicht, Renee Moloznik's mother, health issues;

Dinah Paffrath, aunt of Renee Moloznik, receiving cancer treatments;

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;

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;

Sandra Kichefski, sister of Sheri Sankey, health concerns;

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.



Isabelle Thibau (12/3); Daniel Ricci (12/3); Carter Harris (12/12);
Ludivine Kom-Liapoe (12/14); Jim Kaufmann (12/16); Brent Davis (12/17)

This Week at Geneva

Sunday, December 12	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online
Sunday, December 12	12:00pm	Christmas Soup/Chili/Singalong
Tuesday, December 14	7:30pm	Meeting - Deacons
Wed, December 15	7:00pm	Bible Study
Saturday, December 18	11:00am	Choir Practice
Sunday, December 19	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online
Sunday, December 19	4:00pm	Christmas B-I-N-G-O
Wed, December 22	7:00pm	Bible Study
Friday, December 24	5:00pm	Worship – Christmas Eve

- **Updated COVID Guidelines!**

Session has approved an updated set of COVID Guidelines for Geneva Presbyterian that are in line with changing pandemic guidelines and the needs specific to our congregation. Please review and abide by these guidelines to keep our community safe if you come to Geneva in person.

Update Approved Nov. 22, 2021

1. Masks will be worn inside the church building and social distancing will be practiced. If a person is unable or unwilling to wear a mask, they may join us online for worship at this time.
2. The Pastor and Liturgist may remove their masks while leading worship in the chancel area.
3. The sanctuary will open for worshippers at 10:15.
4. Please enter through the main glass doors on the Seven Locks Rd. side of the building.
5. Check in procedure: all worshippers will provide their name for contact tracing, answer the standard "COVID questions," and have their temperature checked upon arrival. Hand sanitizing stations and masks will be available.
6. If any member of a household has a temperature above 100.4 degrees the entire household will be asked to leave and worship with us virtually until safe to return. If you don't feel well, please don't come to church in person.
7. Greeters will help with check in and questions. Ushers will guide worshippers to their seats in the sanctuary.
8. Child care is being offered in a downstairs school classroom. Masks are encouraged if a child is able to wear one. An Usher can help guide caregivers and children to the child care space.
9. Individually sealed communion cups will be provided upon arrival for services when we celebrate the Lord's Supper.
10. Offerings and donations may be made online or in the physical offering plate located next to the sanctuary doors.
11. The congregation may sing with masks on.
12. Geneva Day School areas are strictly off limits to maintain safety for students and staff (with the exception of child care during worship).
13. Please obey all posted signs and do your part to keep our community safe!
14. These guidelines apply to everyone equally, regardless of vaccination status.

Thank You!

On behalf of the Deacons, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for contributing to the Blessing Bag Ministry with your time, talent, and resources. The bags will be delivered to the Men's and Women's shelters this month. Because of your generosity, the women will be receiving: beautiful, reusable face masks, hats and gloves, sanitary wipes, chapstick, handmade bracelets, hair products and hair accessories. The men will be receiving new socks, shaving cream, razors, and sanitary wipes. It brings us such joy to gather and collect these things so that they may benefit others.

Stay tuned for the next round of blessing bags coming in February 2022, that will benefit Covenant House in D.C. and Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville. To donate your time, talent, or resources to the Blessing Bag Ministry, please contact Allyson McElwaine at asmcelwaine@gmail.com.



- **There is Still Time!**

Have you made your 2022 pledge yet? Now is the time and we need your help to make God's plans for our church family in the coming year a reality.

If you plan to submit a pledge indicating your intentions for financial giving in 2022, you may do so, we invite you to submit your pledge information [online through the church website](#) (no personal financial information is gathered), via mail at the church, or by directly contacting Office Administrator Melissa Cutler at melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com.



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.

- **SAVE THE DATE - Geneva Christmas Soup/Chili/Singalong - Sunday, December 12 at 12:00 PM.**

Come feast on assorted soups and chili(s) before our Geneva Singalong with Ben. It will be held after our Sunday service at 12:00 PM. If you are unable to attend in person, we will have a Zoom set up shortly.

Topic: Geneva Christmas Singalong Zoom Meeting
Time: Dec 12, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)





POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Advent, please email Melissa in the church office at Melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com.

If your poinsettia is in honor or memory of someone please be sure to include that information in your email.

Each poinsettia is \$15. Make your check payable to Geneva Presbyterian Church, write Advent in the memo and mail your check to the church.

It needs to be received in the church office by Noon on Friday, December 17. You can pay online through our church donate app.

Please go to Special Gifts at <https://genevapotomac.org/give/online-giving/>

- **Advent Devotional: Advent In Plain Sight by Jill J. Duffield**

This year Geneva will be getting a lot of mileage out of one particularly excellent resource, Jill Duffield's new Advent devotional, "[Advent In Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects](#)." We are encouraging every member of our community to purchase a copy of this devotional for personal, daily reflection as we prepare for Christmas. The link above will help you purchase a copy through Amazon; if you need or would like for the church to provide a copy, please contact Pastor Patrick or Melissa in the church office.



In addition to your own personal Advent preparations, we will also use the book as a jumping off point for Wednesday Bible Study sessions and Pastor Patrick's sermons this coming season. We commend this book to you and hope you will join the entire Geneva family as we prepare for Christ's incarnation this season.

With Blessings,

Carl Perthel, Elder for Christian Education
Pastor Patrick

- **JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY!**

Now is the perfect time to jump in and connect with this fantastic group that meets every Wednesday @ 7:00pm Eastern for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Make Wednesday Bible Study a part of your holiday preparations this Advent season!



Virtual Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

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

Meeting ID: 273 879 363

Password: 978348

- **Worship Flowers**

Would you like to sponsor Geneva's Sunday morning worship flowers to enhance our gift of worship to God? If so, the cost is \$35 per week and the flowers can be dedicated in honor of or memory of a loved one or for another specified reason.

To sponsor our worship flowers for the week, please use our [SignUp Genius](#) (online payment available) or contact Melissa in the church office at Melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com or (301) 424-4346.



**PLEASE SUPPORT GOD'S MINISTRY
THROUGH GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE, TABLET,
COMPUTER OR MAIL!**

Three Ways to Give:

- **Online** - using this link -
<https://genevapotomac.org/give/online-giving/>
- **By App:** download **GIVE PLUS⁺**, create an account, and choose Geneva Presbyterian Church (in Potomac) as your home church
- **By Mail:** checks securely received at :
11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854

- **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)

- **Geneva Worship Videos**

Geneva Presbyterian worship videos are available on our church website the Monday following each service. Please share worship recordings with friends and family and join us for worship later if you couldn't make it live!

[Click HERE to watch our past Virtual Worship services!](#)



Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor; Ben Shaver, Music Director;
Rolf Winch, Lector; Kyla Lupo, Zoom Host.

Church Elders

Jane Campbell, Carl Perthel, Daniel Ricci,
Tom Sadler, Sheri Sankey, Amanda White,
Elaine Winch

Church Deacons

Ludivine Kom-Liapoe, Bobbie Maxwell,
Allyson McElwaine, Renee Moloznik,
Rosie Perthel, Jessie Ricci, Rhonda Ricci

If you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns, please share them with our officers.

Today's flowers are given to by Sara Torrence, in honor of what would have been their 52nd wedding anniversary.



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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