

DECEMBER 19, 2021



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 19, 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 Fourth Candle of Advent

Bud and Cheryl Wyker

Wreath Lighting Response

Leader: Come, O Radiant Dawn, shine forth your splendor in our midst.

People: Come, Light of the World, be for us the way, the truth, and the life, living among us so that we may live forever with you.

Opening Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
(Lyrics on next page)

#121

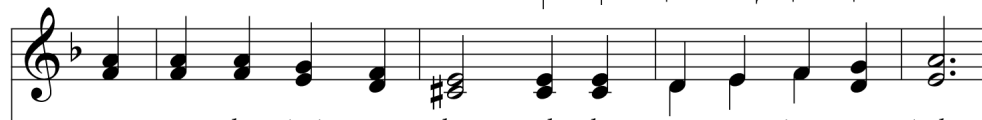
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
 MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)

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, 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, 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, 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)*

Holy One of Israel, we look to you for our salvation and new life. Sprout forth new life in our midst today as we seek to be nourished by the living waters of your Word. Cultivate in us patient and ardent hearts, that we may live for your glory. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Job 14:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Can This Dead Stump Live Again?"

Rev. Patrick McElwaine

The Sacrament of Baptism

Presentation

Kenley Madison Ferguson (*born August 28, 2016*).....*Children of Kim and Zach Ferguson*
Kylie Robert Ferguson (*born January 21, 2021*)

Matthew Thomas Lawch (*born April 18, 2021*).....*Child of Lauren Hart and Taylor Lawch*

Profession of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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)*

Thanksgiving Over the Water

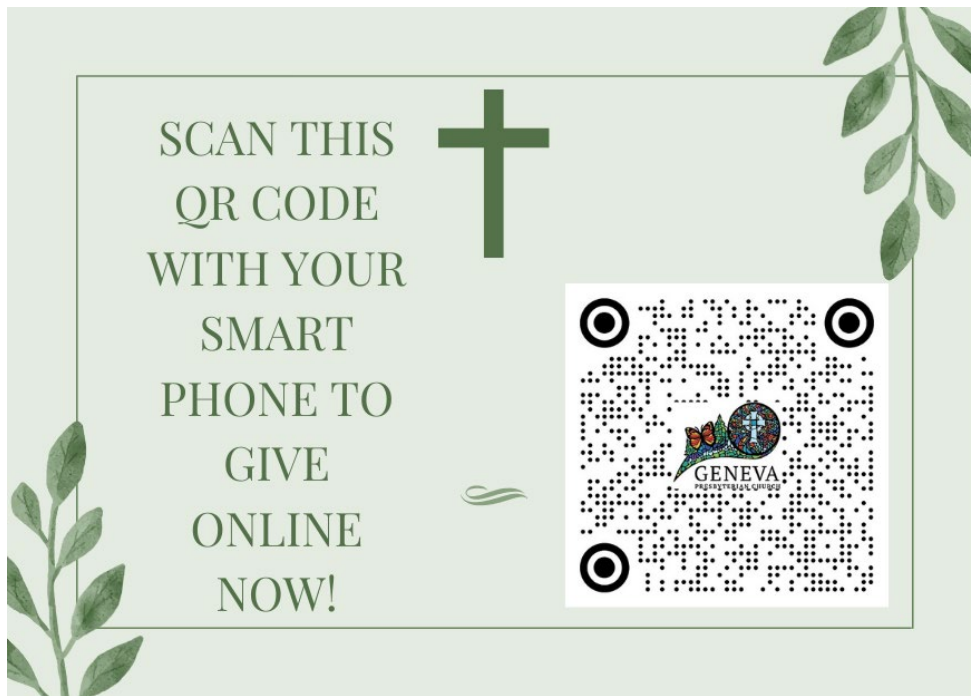
The Baptism

Welcome



The Thanksgiving

The Offering



Music Offering

“My Lord Has Come”

by Will Todd

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

Closing Hymn

“In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy”

#153

(Lyrics on next page)

153 In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy



1 In Beth - le - hem a new - born boy was hailed with
 2 The sol - diers sought the child in vain: not yet was
 3 Still rage the fires of hate to - day, and in - no -
 4 Lord Je - sus, through our night of loss shines out the
 5 May that great love our lives con - trol and con - quer



songs of praise and joy. Then warn - ing came of
 he to share our pain; but down the a - ges
 cents the price must pay, while ach - ing hearts in
 won - der of your cross, the love that can - not
 hate in ev - ery soul, till, pledged to build and



dan - ger near: King Her - od's troops would soon ap - pear.
 rings the cry of those who saw their chil - dren die.
 ev - ery land cry out, "We can - not un - der - stand!"
 cease to bear our hu - man an - guish ev - ery - where.
 not de - stroy, we share your pain and find your joy.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The Slaughter of the Innocents (Matthew 2:16–18) is not an event we like to think about, but this text shows how it connects to the ongoing suffering of parents and children in our world today. Only the love that led Christ to the cross can bear the weight of such human anguish.

TEXT: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, alt.
 MUSIC: Wilbur Held, 1983
 Text © 1981 Oxford University Press
 Music © 1983 Wilbur Held

IN BETHLEHEM
 LM

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

The background of the page is a photograph of a town at sunset. The sky is a deep orange and red, with a bright sun on the left side. In the foreground, the silhouettes of buildings and a church steeple with a dome are visible against the darkening sky.

About the Music...

The image I chose to use this week is of a little town called Bethlehem. Both hymns are centered around the birthplace of Jesus, or where he is believed to have been born. Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, which he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. The Slaughter of the Innocents (Matthew 2:16–18) is not an event we like to think about, but the text of our closing hymn shows how it connects to the ongoing suffering of parents and children in our world today. Only the love that led Christ to the cross can bear the weight of such human anguish.



The work, worship, pastor and leadership of Geneva.

Comfort for the Family and Friends of

Elaine Brasted;

Jim Torrence;

The family and friends of John McKenna, friend of Jim and Sara Torrence

Ray Johnson, father of Katie Harris;

Ruth Harris, mother of Jim Harris

Derrick Brown, family of Scott Brown

Healing and Comfort for

Ellie Alexander, health concerns;

Barbara and Paul Prosswimmer, health concerns;

Rosie Perthel, health concerns;

Carole Haller, health concerns;

Jan Sengers, colleague of Sara Torrence, health concerns

Earl Baker, friend of Sara and Jim Torrence, 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;

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);
Emmanuel Mbi (12/25)

This Week at Geneva

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
Sunday, December 26	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online
Wed, December 29		No Bible Study - Merry Christmas!
Sunday, January 2	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online

- **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.

- **Christmas BINGO**

Christmas Bingo will be held via Zoom on **Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 4:00 PM Eastern Time Zone.**

Include family and friends and enjoy your time playing with your Geneva family.



Good Luck and Merry Christmas!!

<https://zoom.us/j/668560374?pwd=SW9XbVViN0sxQ0Noa21VRExkanNXdz09>


Meeting ID: 668 560 374
Password: 240543

- **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.

Submit Poinsettia Orders by Friday, December 17th!



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/>

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.



- **Christmas Joy Offering**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances.

PCUSA with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue—sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

- **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!



Bible Study **will** meet on Dec. 22 but **will not** meet on Dec. 29 to take a break for Christmas.

Virtual Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

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

Meeting ID: 273 879 363

Password: 978348

- **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

- **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;
Jane Campbell, 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 by Kyla Lupo, in honor of the Sankey family's familyversary.



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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