

JANUARY 2, 2022



EPIPHANY

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor

Get Prepared For Virtual Communion This Sunday In Worship!

This Sunday we will be sharing the sacrament of The Lord's Supper digitally during Virtual Church. Here's how it will work and here is how you can prepare:

– **Gather your own communion elements from around your home ahead of worship Sunday morning.** Jesus chose common foods of his day for the first communion: bread and "fruit of the vine". What common starch do you have available? In countries around the world, the commonly available starch is tortillas and rice, so those are used. What beverage feels right for you to use? Not everyone has juice in the home, so we might need to be creative.

– Please: in preparing for communion and choosing your elements, do so thoughtfully and with reverence for the sacrament we will share.

– **I will gather my own elements at home and lead liturgy as we are used to.** Since we are gathered for worship as a community in the way that is possible for us right now, my prayers will serve as a blessing for all of our elements.

It's a joy to share to share the Lord's Supper together – let us gather at Jesus' table!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Patrick

Geneva Presbyterian Church

December 2, 2022

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

Silence and Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come!

People: The glory of God has risen upon us.

Leader: Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

People: May His brightness illumine our lives and call all nations to walk as one in your light.

Leader: Come and adore the Savior of the nations.

People: We offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.

GATHERING

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



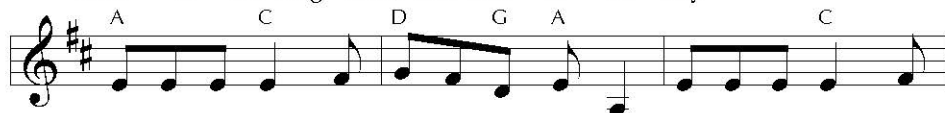
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The “you/your” mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God’s witnesses and for God’s purposes.

Call to Confession

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

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us, forgive us, and help us live in ways that shine forth your glory for the world to see. Through Jesus, hear us now as we pray in silence...

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 in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from our time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours. Now and forever, Amen.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination *(in unison)*

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and love. Amen.

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-9 (NIV)

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Matthew 5:13-16

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“What Is Your Story?”

Rev. Stella Lee

Affirmation of Faith *(in unison)*

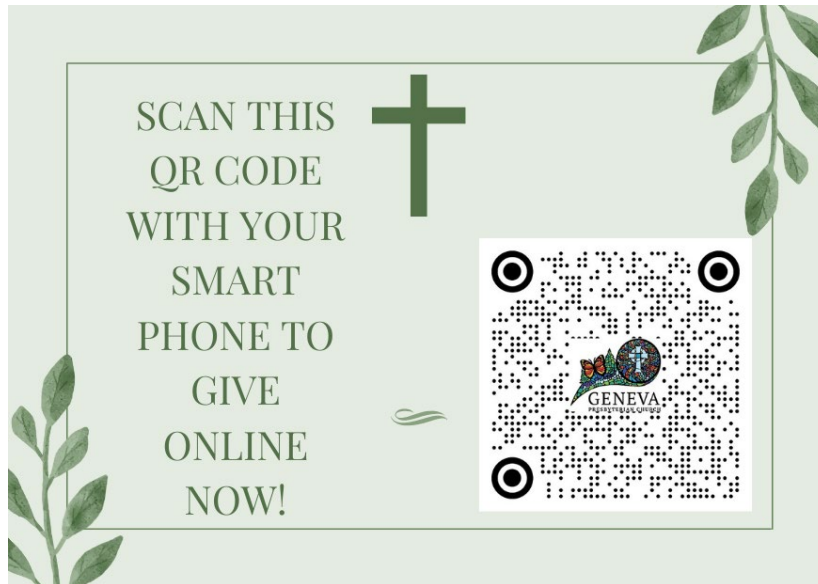
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; 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 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Communion Prayer

The Sending

Closing Hymn

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

THE CHURCH

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314 Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

TEXT and MUSIC: Bernadette Farrell, 1993
 Text and Music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell (Published by OCP)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
 9.8.9.6 with refrain

Postlude



About the Music...

The “you/your” mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but *Gather Us In*, written in 1979, is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God’s witnesses and for God’s purposes.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, our closing hymn connects Christ’s promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church’s servant calling.



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.



Birthdays: *Sheena Galliani (1/5); Bob Ricci (1/6); Jacquelyn Kough (1/6); Rosalie Ruff (1/8); Allyson McElwaine (1/14); Sara Torrence (1/17); Amanda White(1/18); Terry Shima (1/20) ; Malachi McElwaine (1/23); Carole Haller (1/25); Eric Winchenbach (1/26); Ruth Nunn (1/28); Ani Cherot (1/30)*

This Week at Geneva

Sunday, January 2	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online
Wed, January 5	7:00pm	Bible Study
Sunday, January 9	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.

- **Pastor Patrick on Vacation**

Pastor Patrick will be on vacation December 27 - January 3. If you have a pastoral need during this time please contact your Deacon. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and many thanks to Stella Lee for leading worship on January 2nd!



- **Special Thanks to Rev. Stella Lee!**

Stella Lee currently serves as a staff chaplain at UVA Community Medical Center, VA. Stella served for the First Presbyterian Church of Annandale as a Director of Family Ministries for five years in the past. She was ordained onto the hospital chaplaincy by the National Capital Presbytery. She is a graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary, MDIV. She was originally born and raised in South Korea, where her family lives. Outside the ministry, she likes to enjoy being in nature, doing yoga and Zumba, and spending time with friends like her family here. She likes to start her day with morning devotionals and prayer to feed the hospital community every day. Her favorite quote is *"Better than a thousand hollow words, is one that brings peace"* by Buddha.



- **There is Still Time!**

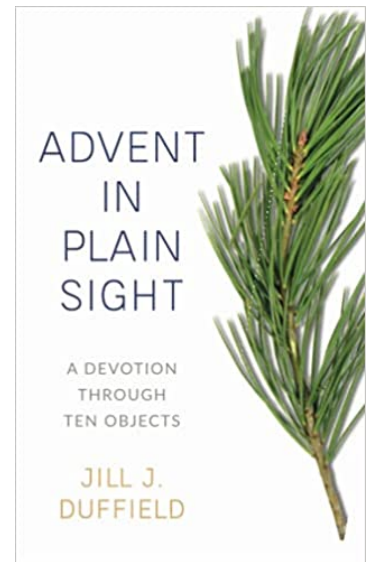
Have you made your 2022 pledge yet? Now is the time and we need your help to make God's plans for our church family in the coming year a reality.

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.



- **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;
Mark Allen, 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 the Glory of God, by Janelle Thibau.



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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