

DECEMBER 17, 2023



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor

Follow us on Social Media



@genevachurchpotomac on Instagram



@Geneva Presbyterian Church on facebook

Geneva Presbyterian Church

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30am

Childcare is available in a downstairs classroom -- please ask an Usher for help.

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. This is your spiritual home -- we encourage you to sing, pray, and be yourself just as God made you in this holy space.

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

Wreath Lighting Hymn

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

#85

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 85



3 Light three can- dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and



lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.

Wreath Lighting Liturgy

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord;

People: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

People: God sends good news to the oppressed.

Leader: Be bold in your faith, the Lord is near!

People: We light three candles with joy that our Savior draws near.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Johan, Jen, and Judah van Wyk

Opening Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

#93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

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 grow weary in our discipling. How differently we would live if we knew tomorrow was the day of Your second coming.

God With Us, forgive our sinfulness. Awaken our hearts to call upon your mercy and be led forth again in grace. Hear us as we approach you now in silent personal prayer...

Congregational Response

Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D)
* E^b A^b E^b * *(chords continue)*

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time, key of D minor. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the response, with lyrics 'Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'and all people will see the sal - va - tion of our God.' Above the first staff, there are guitar chord indications: Capo 1: (D) E^b, (G) A^b, (D) E^b, and an asterisk. Above the second staff, there are two asterisks. The text '(chords continue)' is written above the second staff.

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.

Passing of the Peace "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

#314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,

D G C Am Dsus D
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.

Refrain

G C G Em Bm Em
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G
church gath - ered to - day.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination *(in unison)*

Blessed Lord, speak to us: in our waiting, in our preparations, in this season of Advent. May your Word come to us today as refreshing good news, a healing balm and an invigorating drink for thirsty souls. By the power of the Holy Spirit and in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 16:1-5

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Cali Bronkema

(Children 5th grade and younger are invited to join Bridges to Worship in the downstairs classroom following the Children's Sermon. Please join NextGen Director Cali Bronkema in the rug area to participate!)

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 9:11-14, 25-28

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Jesus Our Priest"

Rev. Patrick McElwaine

Affirmation of Faith/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.

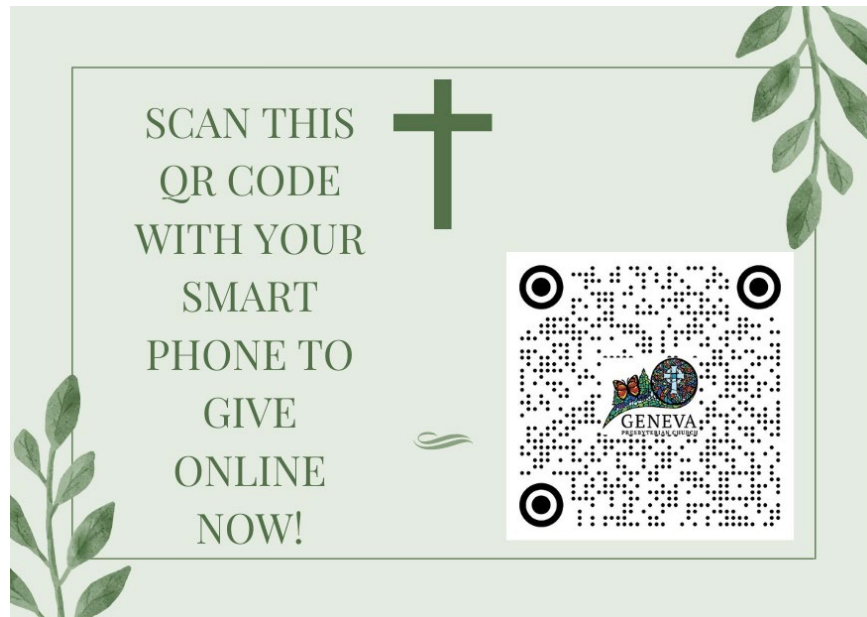
Amen.

*(*meaning all of God's churches)*

The Thanksgiving

The Offering

(Every gift of every size is celebrated and appreciated. You may tithe in person at the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary, through the mail via check, or online via app or the QR code below.)



Have you made your pledge for 2024? If not, there's still time for you to commit to this spiritual practice in the year ahead.

Please visit the church website and select Pledge 2024 under the Give tab or email the church office.



Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

Closing Hymn

“Womb of Life and Source of Being”

Womb of life and source of being,
home of every restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened;
you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather 'round you,
at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter,
we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,
born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us,
knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles,
Life of Life and Death of Death,
risen Christ, come stand among us,
send the Spirit by your breath.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

Names in bold are new prayer list additions.

The work, worship, pastor and leadership of Geneva.

Comfort for the Family and Friends of

Kathy Torrence, niece of Jim and Sara Torrence;

Henry Tyrrell, friend of Jim and Sara Torrence;

Tom Voith, brother of Elaine Winch;

Annamaria G. Winch, Rolf Winch's mother;

Ken Adams, father of Juliet Hiemberg;

Lori Miller, Friend of Beth Sherman;

Janet Lupo Neidermuller, sister-in-law of Vince Lupo;

Jacqueline Thibau, Mother of Eric Thibau;

Toshiko Ota, founding member of Geneva Presbyterian Church;

Lorraine Leicht, Renee Moloznik's mother;

Healing and Comfort for

Bill Bryan, father of Letitia Denaburg, health concerns;

John Wright, health concerns;

Mike Sydoriak, health concerns;

Jack Kough, shoulder injury;

Logan, niece of Janelle Thibau health concerns;

Eleanor Rassmussen, Allyson McElwaine's aunt, health concerns;

Maxine Carey, health concerns;

Bob Daraskevich and his family, friend of Kyla Lupo undergoing cancer treatment;

Emmanuel Mbi, recovering from surgery;

Nancy Morse, health concerns;

Scott Brown, health concerns;

Justin Pack, nephew of PJ Davis, living with ALS;

John Hanson, friend of Sara Torrence, health concerns;

Margaret and Don Acton, parents of Amanda White, continued health concerns;

Paul Quin, husband of Pamela Wilson, health concerns;

Rosie Perthel, health concerns;

Pepe Marin, health concerns;

Nancy Rawson, health concerns;

Rosalie Ruff, health concerns;

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

Isabelle Schuessler, friend of Scott Brown, health concerns;

Daniel Adkins, nephew of Kyla and Vince Lupo, health concerns;

Jeff Leicht, Renee Moloznik's brother;

Judith Sadler, mother of Tom Sadler, mental illness and PG County guardianship care;

Leland Perthel, living with Post-Concussion Syndrome;

Sandra Kichefski, sister of Sheri Sankey, health concerns;

Prayers for Peace

Walter Sprinkle, son of Ken and Nan Sprinkle, on an overseas assignment

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

This Week at Geneva

Saturday, December 16	7:00pm	Holiday Concert – In-Person
Sunday, December 17	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online
Sunday, December 17	11:45am	Church Sing-Along – Chili/Soup Cookoff and Cookie Swap
Wed, December 20	6:00pm	Bible Study – Zoom
Sunday, December 24	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online
Sunday, December 24	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 31	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online
Wed, January 3	6:00pm	No Bible Study – Zoom (returns January 10 th !)

Thank you Jaylan Jones for Adding your talents to our service!

Jaylan Jones is a flutist currently residing in Lake Charles, LA. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance ('23) from McNeese State University, where he studied with Dr. Judy A. Hand. He was awarded the principal chair of the Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band. He was also a proud member of the piccolo section in The Pride of McNeese Marching Band and a member of the McNeese State University Flute Ensemble. He was honored to be a member of the Rho Zeta Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia as historian and music director, and a member of the Iota Upsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi as the chapter's secretary.



Jaylan is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Flute Performance ('25) at Shenandoah Conservatory under the tutelage of Julietta Curenton. His talents have awarded him the principal chair of the Symphonic Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. He has also performed with the conservatories Edge Ensemble, which specializes in contemporary music, the Pit Orchestra for *Into the Woods*, and the Flute Ensemble.

Jaylan has attended and competed in several festivals, including The Credo Flute Festival, The Southern Flute Festival, The Universities of Louisiana Summit, and The Louisiana Flute Festival. Additionally, he has participated in masterclasses with Carlos Feller, Susan Milan, Gretchen Pusch, and Mihi Kim. Jaylan is the winner of the young adult division of the 2022 Rapides Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, the 2023 McNeese State University UL Summit competition, and the 2023 Louisiana Flute Festival Competition.

In 2022, he performed with the Master Chorale of Lake Charles, The Rapides Symphony Orchestra, The Lake Charles Symphony Orchestra, The Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, The Lake Charles Band, and the McNeese Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band.

Geneva Advent Events 2023



**DEC
03**

ADVENT CRAFT EVENT

Following Worship

**DEC
16**

HOLIDAY CONCERT - GENEVA CHOIR & BELLS

7:00 PM

**DEC
17**

SING-A-LONG & COOKIE EXCHANGE

Following Worship

**DEC
24**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

5:00 PM



A Christmas Concert Celebration

December 16, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.

Geneva Presbyterian Church
11931 Seven Locks Rd
Potomac, MD 20854

Streaming on



FREE concert with a reception afterwards!

@genevachurchpotomac



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 15. You can pay online through our church donate app.

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

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 31st. 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

- You may select gifts from the giving tree located in the Narthex, or you can email Melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com with your gift choices. Payment by check "Geneva Presbyterian Church" mail to the church office:

11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854

- All checks must be received by December 31st.

Thank you for your generosity,

***Renee Moloznik,
Sheena Galliani
Jane Campbell***

Weekly Virtual Bible Study

Wednesdays

6-7 pm

Zoom:

Meeting ID: 273 879 363

Password: 978348

Join us as we make our way through the book of Phillipians!



STEPPING INTO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

'23-'24
SERMON
SERIES

Join us for worship as we dedicate this year to the Gospel of Mark! We'll journey through the book together to better understand scripture, Jesus, and how it all relates to our own lives.

Returning After Christmas

Follow Us on Social Media



Let's Get Connected!

Please add us to your social media channels. You can follow and like Geneva Presbyterian Church via Instagram and Facebook!



@genevachurchpotomac on Instagram




@Geneva Presbyterian Church on facebook



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 **Vanco Mobile** , create an account, Invitation code for Geneva Presbyterian Church (Potomac, MD): **3DS2A8**
- **By Mail:** checks securely received at :
11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854

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Ways to Give:

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- **By Mail:** checks securely received at:

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- **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!

Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor; Ben Shaver, Music Director;
Janelle Thibau, Lector; Rolf Winch, Zoom Host.
Ken Sprinkle and Sheri Sankey, Audio/Visual

Church Elders

Jane Campbell, Carl Perthel, Tom Sadler,
Sheri Sankey, Ken Sprinkle,
Amanda White, Elaine Winch

Church Deacons

Ludivine Kom-Liapoe, Kyla Lupo,
Sheena Galliani, Allyson McElwaine,
Renee Moloznik, Rosie Perthel,
Janelle Thibau

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 the Geneva Presbyterian Family.



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
Cali Bronkema, Next Generation Director, nextgen.genevapotomac@gmail.com
Melissa Cutler, Office Administrator, melissa.genevapotomac@gmail.com

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