

DECEMBER 31, 2023



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 31, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas

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

Call to Worship

Leader: I will proclaim the gracious deeds of God;

People: the steadfast love of the Lord is great.

Leader: Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,

People: the glory of God's people and a light to all.

Leader: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;

People: let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

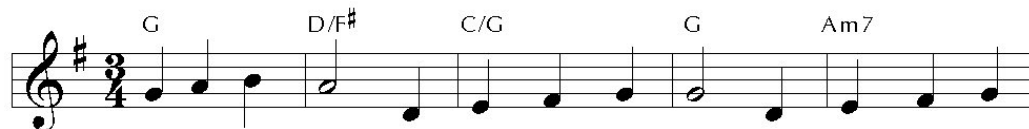
Opening Hymn

"Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple"

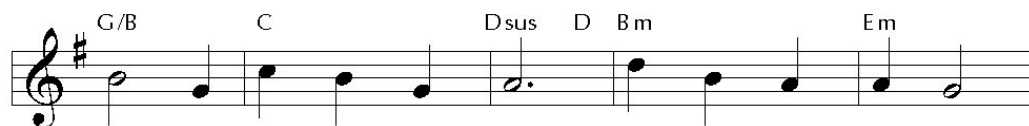
#148

(Lyrics on next page)

Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple 148



1 Mar-y and Jo - seph came to the tem - ple brought the boy
 2 An - na had prayed there, wid - owed, long wait - ing, wor - ship - ing
 3 Sim - e - on sings now: God prof - ers bless - ing, bril - liant - ly



Je - sus, of - fered him there. Peo - ple were wait - ing
 God by day and by night. Now she is prais - ing,
 gild - ing dawn of his day. Light in the dark - ness,



want - ing to greet him; long had they sought him, so - lace for care.
 filled with e - la - tion: here is God's prom - ise, Christ is her light.
 nev - er ex - tin - guished, Light of all na - tions, light up our way.

This text retells the story in Luke 2:22–39, usually called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which took place forty days after his birth. Mary, Joseph, and the Christ-child encounter there two devout people, Anna and Simeon, who identify this baby as the promised Messiah.

TEXT: Andrew Pratt, 1994

MUSIC: David Haas, 1985

Text © 1997 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

EVENING HYMN

5.5.5.4.D

Call to Confession

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

Almighty God, you spoke creation into existence in your freely given love. With creation now fallen and marked by sin, you graciously restore it once again through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Light of the World, in your mercy show us your ways with fresh insight. Count us as sheep of your flock worthy of correction and protection. Hear us as we confess our own sinfulness and the sins of this world, seeking the forgiveness you offer...

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response

SERVICE MUSIC

Glory to God

583

Gloria, gloria

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**May be sung as a canon.*

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979
Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

GLORIA (Taizé)

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 "Make Me A Channel of Your Peace"

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where

Chords: D, Bm, A7, D, Em, A7

there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where

Chords: D, Bm, G, Em, A7

there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and

Chords: Em, A7, Em7, A7

where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Chords: Em, A7, D

The Word

Prayer for Illumination *(in unison)*

Holy Spirit, show us the Word made flesh so that we may understand and sing with the angels: Good news of great joy for all! Glory in the highest and peace on earth!
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

First Reading

Luke 2:22-35

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!)

Second Reading

Luke 2:36-40

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Word Gets Out"

Rev. Patrick McElwaine

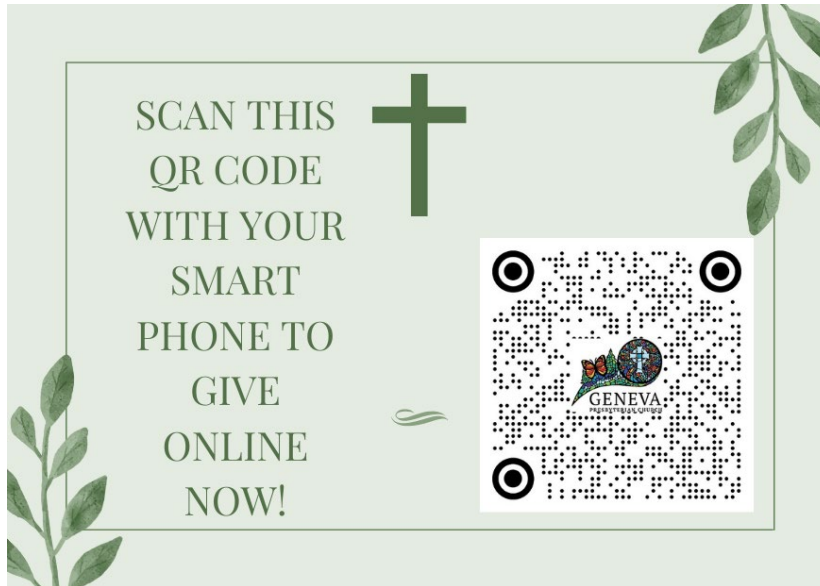
Affirmation of Faith/The Apostles' Creed *(in unison)*

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

Beloved, we invite you to join in the ministry of this church with your tithes and offerings. Your gifts may be received in the physical offering plate in the back of the sanctuary or online using the QR code in your bulletin. Let us give generously and joyfully.



Music Offering

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

Closing Hymn **“Lord Bid Your Servant Go in Peace (Song of Simeon)”** **#545**
(Lyrics on Next Page)

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace 545

Song of Simeon

1 Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace; your
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world, the

word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing

va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.
in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.

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);
 Emmanuel Mbi (12/25)

This Week at Geneva

Sunday, December 31	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online
Wed, January 3	6:00pm	No Bible Study – Zoom (returns January 10 th !)
Saturday, January 6	11:00am	Neurodiverse Playground Get Together – We Rock the Spectrum
Sunday, January 7	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online (Epiphany – Star Words during Service)
Wed, January 10	6:00pm	Bible Study – Zoom
Sunday, January 14	9:00am	Joyful Noise Worship – In-Person
Sunday, January 14	9:30am	Caregivers Coffee Hour
Sunday, January 14	10:30am	Worship – In-Person and Online

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:

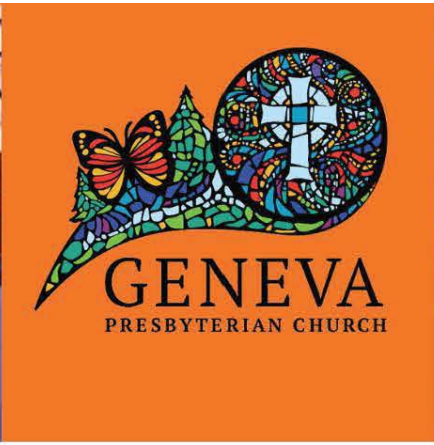
11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854

- All checks must be received by December 31st.

Thank you for your generosity,

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





NEURODIVERSE *Play Dates*


January and February
We Rock the Spectrum
7601 Airpark Rd
Gaithersburg, MD


in warm months
Geneva Presbyterian
Playground
11931 Seven Locks Rd
Potomac, MD



**1st Saturday of
every month
11 AM-12 PM**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME**
Neurodiverse
kiddos, their siblings
and caregivers

www.genevapotomac.org

Joyful Noise Service

A SENSORY FRIENDLY WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for a time of movement, learning, and joyful noises! All are welcome.

2nd Sunday of the Month

9-9:30: Worship
9:30-10:15: Caregivers Coffee Hour

Geneva Presbyterian Church
11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD



Wednesday Bible Study is on break and will return on January 10. Please mark your calendars and continue in your daily personal scripture reading until we reconvene!



STEPPING INTO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

'23-'24
SERMON
SERIES

Join us for worship as we dedicate the 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

Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor; Ben Shaver, Music Director;
Mark Allen, Lector; Kyla Lupo, Zoom Host.
Ken Sprinkle and Ken Denaburg, 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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