

**DECEMBER 24, 2023**



*Christmas*  
**EVE**

**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

11931 Seven Locks Road  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 424-4346  
[www.genevapotomac.org](http://www.genevapotomac.org)

**Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor**

# Geneva Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

5:00pm

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*Thank you for joining us for this interactive, intergenerational worship service! As we hear the Christmas story from the point of view of those who lived it, we will gather in smaller groups for activities to help us dive deeper together. Further instructions will be given as the service progresses. We're so glad you're here to celebrate the birth of Christ with us!*

## Prelude

## Welcome to Christmas Eve Worship

### Wreath Lighting Liturgy

Leader: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy; for unto you is born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord

**People: A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders,**

Leader: And he is named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**People: Holy God, draw us into the mystery of your incarnation and the wonder of your love as we light this final candle.**

*-- From Luke 2 and Isaiah 9*

### Lighting the Christ Candle

*The Thibau Family*



O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

**Mary and Joseph’s Story**

***The Journey to Bethlehem***



Away in a manger No crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus Laid down His sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus No crying He makes  
I love You, Lord Jesus Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

## The Innkeeper's Story

### *At The Inn*



## Our Christmas Eve Offering

### The Shepherds' Story

#### *Guarding Their Flock*



Carol

**“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

**#218**

**Refrain:**

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. (**Refrain**)

***Thank you to all our readers who generously donated their voice to tell this beautiful Christmas Story!***

Christmas Eve Homily

*Rev. Patrick McElwaine*

## Passing the Christmas Flame

*Geneva tradition is to light candles at this point of the service by passing the flame together from the Christ Candle. Electric candles are also available by request.*

*If you are worshiping with us from a distance tonight, please join by lifting a light, your hands, or your heart in celebration as the words below are read.*



So holy is this wondrous night, that our hearts are filled with joy,  
for God turned darkness into light, With the birth of a baby boy.  
The heavens rejoice, the angels sing, And the whole world in reply  
Praises the Messiah, the anointed king With glory to God on high.  
May the glow of this candle light our way To reach out to those in need,  
So as faithful servants day by day, We may serve God's people indeed.

*written by Elaine Brasted*  
**#186**

**Carol**

***“Silent Night! Holy Night!”***

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child;  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure Light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing  
"Alleluia" to our King!  
"Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born."

**Moment for Silent Prayer**

**Carol**

***“Joy to the World”***

**#179 (vs. 1 & 4)**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

**Benediction**

*Rev. Patrick McElwaine*

**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 Rasmussen, 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



**Joyce Harris**

In Honor of the McElwaine family

**Joyce Harris**

In Honor of Ben Shaver and the choir

**Juliet Heimberg**

In Memory of Pamela Adams

**Juliet Heimberg**

In Memory of Ken Adams

**Juliet Heimberg**

In Memory of Nicole Adams

**Juliet Heimberg**

In Memory of Frances Adams

**Barbara and Tom Maxwell**

**The McElwaines**

In Honor of Our Geneva Family

**The McElwaines**

To the Glory of God

**Renee Moloznik**

In Memory of Terry Moloznik

**Renee Moloznik**

In Memory of Abe Leicht

**Renee Moloznik**

In Memory of Mike Moloznik

**MaryBeth (Halls) Sarr**

In Memory of Betty, Alex and Andrew Halls

**Nan and Ken Sprinkle**

In memory of Myra Toel Faison

**Sara Torrence**

In Memory of my husband, Jim

**Sara Torrence**

In Honor of Loved Ones

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- **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;  
Janelle Thibau, Lector; Kyla Lupo, Zoom Host.  
Ken Denaburg and Ken Sprinkle, 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:**

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