

**December 14, 2025**



THIRD SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

**Geneva Presbyterian Church**

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

**Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor**

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@Geneva Presbyterian Church on facebook

# Geneva Presbyterian Church

December 14, 2025

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**

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome to the Worship of God**

**Wreath Lighting Hymn**

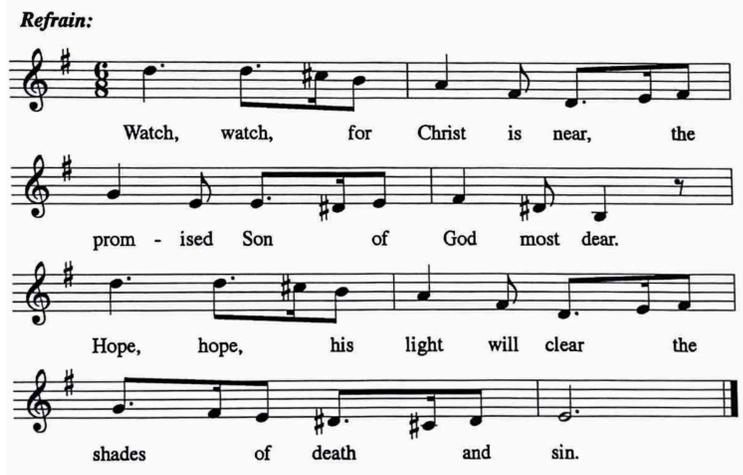
**Choir:** *A flickering candle sheds its light in hope of dawn's victorious might,  
and backward scurries cowardly night reminded of the morning.*

**All:** *Refrain*

**Choir:** *Though night is long, do not grow weak, to all who suffer, clearly speak:  
(Advent 3) "The Lord, the Savior whom you seek, behold, is come among you!"*

**All:** *Refrain*

**Refrain:**



Watch, watch, for Christ is near, the  
prom - ised Son of God most dear.  
Hope, hope, his light will clear the  
shades of death and sin.

## 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

Joey, Shirin, and Selma Khalil

## Opening Hymn

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

### Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
3 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, With the ox - en

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
stand - ing by, We shall see him; but in hea - ven, Set at

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
God's right hand on high; Where like stars His child - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
crowned All in white shall wait a - round.

## 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...

## Assurance of Pardon

### Congregational Response “Prepare Ye Way of the Lord”

Refrain (2x), Verse *(sung by choir)*, Refrain

#### Refrain:

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

James E. Moore, Jr.

Pre-prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Pre-prepare ye the way of the Lord.

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#### VERSE *(sung by choir)*:

**Go up to a mountain and shout with a loud voice**  
*(to Refrain)*

**Joys and Concerns** (The Online 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 in heav'n. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And 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 Christ, Be Our Light

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.

*Refrain*  
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.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for". The second staff continues the melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,". The third staff continues: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.". The fourth staff is the start of the refrain: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the". The fifth staff continues the refrain: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your". The sixth staff concludes the refrain: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics are: "church gath - ered to - day.".

# The Word

## **Prayer for Illumination** *(in unison)*

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word. Light the way before us with none other than the Light of the World himself, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the fulfillment of Your covenant promises. Amen.

## **First Scripture Reading**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Children's Sermon**

*Carolyn Fink*

*(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 Scripture Reading**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

"Our Joyful Pilgrimage"

*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

**“Mary, Did You Know?”**

*arr. Jack Schrader*

## Prayer of Dedication



# The Sending

## Closing Hymn

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

### 107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is  
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and  
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and  
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by  
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the  
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break  
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens  
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der  
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be  
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.  
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## 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**

**Alyssa Kakol, a friend of Sara and Tom Sadler, died tragically in a pedestrian accident**

**Rosalie Ruff**

**Tom Maxwell**

**Paul Quin, husband of Pamela Wilson**

Adriana Bockma, friend of Sara Torrence

Richard Torrence, brother-in-law of Sara Torrence

Ron Hauber, friend of Sara Torrence

Joan Snider Voith, sister-in-law of Elaine Winch

Bobbie Maxwell;

John Wright;

**Healing and Comfort for**

**Gabrielle Suver, seriously injured in a hit and run bicycle accident**

The Moghaddam family and their business, during a time of discernment and transition

Jeff Norwood, Cancer Treatment, friend of Moloznik family

Sam White, undiagnosed health concerns

Mohammad Pajouhi, uncle to Hamed Moghaddam & brother to Ency Moghaddam,  
for healing, wisdom for the doctors, and restoration of his heart;

Rev. Mary Pullen, cancer treatment;

Allyson McElwaine, health concerns;

Mike Sydoriak, health concerns;

Kevin Shaver, health concerns;

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

Nancy Morse, health concerns;

Scott Brown, health concerns;

John Hanson, friend of Sara Torrence, health concerns;

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

Pepe Marin, health concerns;

Nancy Rawson, health concerns;

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

Sandra Kichefski, sister of Sheri Sankey, health concerns;

# Geneva December



Adult Bible Study  
Dec. 3rd, 10th & 17th  
6:00 PM



Neurodiverse Playdate  
Dec. 6th 11am-Noon  
@ Geneva



Joyful Noise Service  
Dec. 7th  
9:30-10 AM



Bible Explorers  
Dec. 10th & 17th  
6-7PM



Advent Craft Event  
Dec. 14th  
Following Worship



Cocoa & Movie Night!  
Dec. 17th  
6-7PM



Sing-a-Long & Cookies  
Dec. 21st  
Following Worship



Christmas Eve Service  
Dec. 24th  
5 pm



**POINSETTIAS**

Would you like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Advent?

email **Laura Szakos** at [admin@genevapotomac.org](mailto:admin@genevapotomac.org)

If your poinsettia is in honor or memory of someone please include that information in your email.

**Cost:** \$15/plant  
**Deadline:** Monday, Dec. 15

Note "Poinsettias" for cash or check, or pay online as a "special gift" below:

<https://genevapotomac.org/give/online-giving/>

## bible study is back!

JOIN US WEDNESDAYS

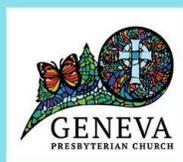
6:00PM ON ZOOM



### **Dream Small:**

The Secret Power of  
the Ordinary Christian  
Life

**better dreams, not bigger**





**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS!**

Join us for our annual Advent Craft Event, where creativity and holiday spirit merge. Together we'll make crafts to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

**SUNDAY DEC. 14TH**      **FOLLOWING 10:30 WORSHIP (APPROX. 11:45)**

Geneva Presbyterian Church  
11931 Seven Locks Road  
Potomac, MD



**COOKIES & CAROLS**

Join us after worship to decorate cookies and join in a Christmas sing along!

**DEC. 21st**  
After 10:30 Worship  
(approx. 11:45)

**Geneva Presbyterian**  
11931 Seven Locks Road  
Potomac, MD




## **Today's Worship Leaders**

*Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor; Ben Shaver, Music Director;  
Alice Franks, Lector; Kyla Lupo, Zoom Host;  
Ken Sprinkle, Curtis Chimba, Audio/Visual*

<b>Church Elders</b>	<b>Church Deacons</b>
Kyla Lupo, Julie Moloznik, Tom Sadler, Sheri Sankey, Ken Sprinkle, Amanda White, Elaine Winch	Eve Dailey, Sheena Galliani, Allyson McElwaine, Carl Perthel, Janelle Thibau

*If you have 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](mailto:pastor.genevapotomac@gmail.com)  
Ben Shaver, Music Director, [music.genevapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:music.genevapotomac@gmail.com)  
Laura Szakos, Church Office Administrator, [admin@genevapotomac.org](mailto:admin@genevapotomac.org)**

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