

December 15, 2024



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



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Geneva Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024

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

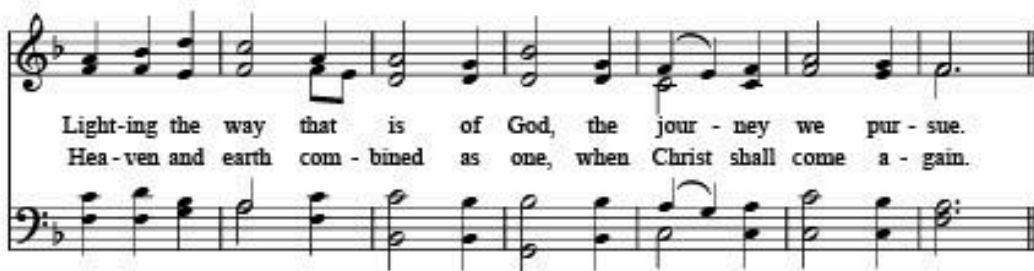
Welcome to the Worship of God

Wreath Lighting Hymn

Advent 3



1. Kin - dle this flame of joy. May it burn bright and true.
2. God's realm is our de - sire, where peace and jus - tice reign.



Light-ing the way that is of God, the jour - ney we pur - sue.
Hea - ven and earth com - bined as one, when Christ shall come a - gain.

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

Sheri Sankey

Opening Hymn

“In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy”

#153

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

153 In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has four measures with chords Am, G, Am, and F. The second staff has four measures with chords G, A, F, and C. The third staff has six measures with chords Am, Em, Dm, Am, G, and Am. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some lines numbered 1 through 5 for the first staff.

1 In Beth - le - hem a new - born boy was hailed with
2 The sol - diers sought the child in vain: not yet was
3 Still rage the fires of hate to - day, and in - no -
4 Lord Je - sus, through our night of loss shines out the
5 May that great love our lives con - trol and con - quer

songs of praise and joy. Then warn - ing came of
he to share our pain; but down the a - ges
cents the price must pay, while ach - ing hearts in
won - der of your cross, the love that can - not
hate in ev - ery soul, till, pledged to build and

dan - ger near: King Her - od's troops would soon ap - pear.
rings the cry of those who saw their chil - dren die.
ev - ery land cry out, "We can - not un - der - stand!"
cease to bear our hu - man an - guish ev - ery - where.
not de - stroy, we share your pain and find your joy.

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-pare ye the way of the Lord.

Pre-pare 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

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. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Chords are indicated above the notes: Em, Am7, Bm7, Esus, Em, Am7, Bm7, Esus, Em, Am7, D, G, C, Am, Dsus, D, G, C, G, Em, Bm, Em, Am7, D, G, Dsus, D, Em, Em7, C, Am7, D, G, Am7, G.

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: Eternal, Spoken, Incarnate, and Glorified. Light the way before us with none other than the Light of the World himself, Jesus our Lord, so that we may see clearly your covenant promises fulfilled. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

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 Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:4-11

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Jesus, the Word Incarnate"

Rev. Patrick McElwaine

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

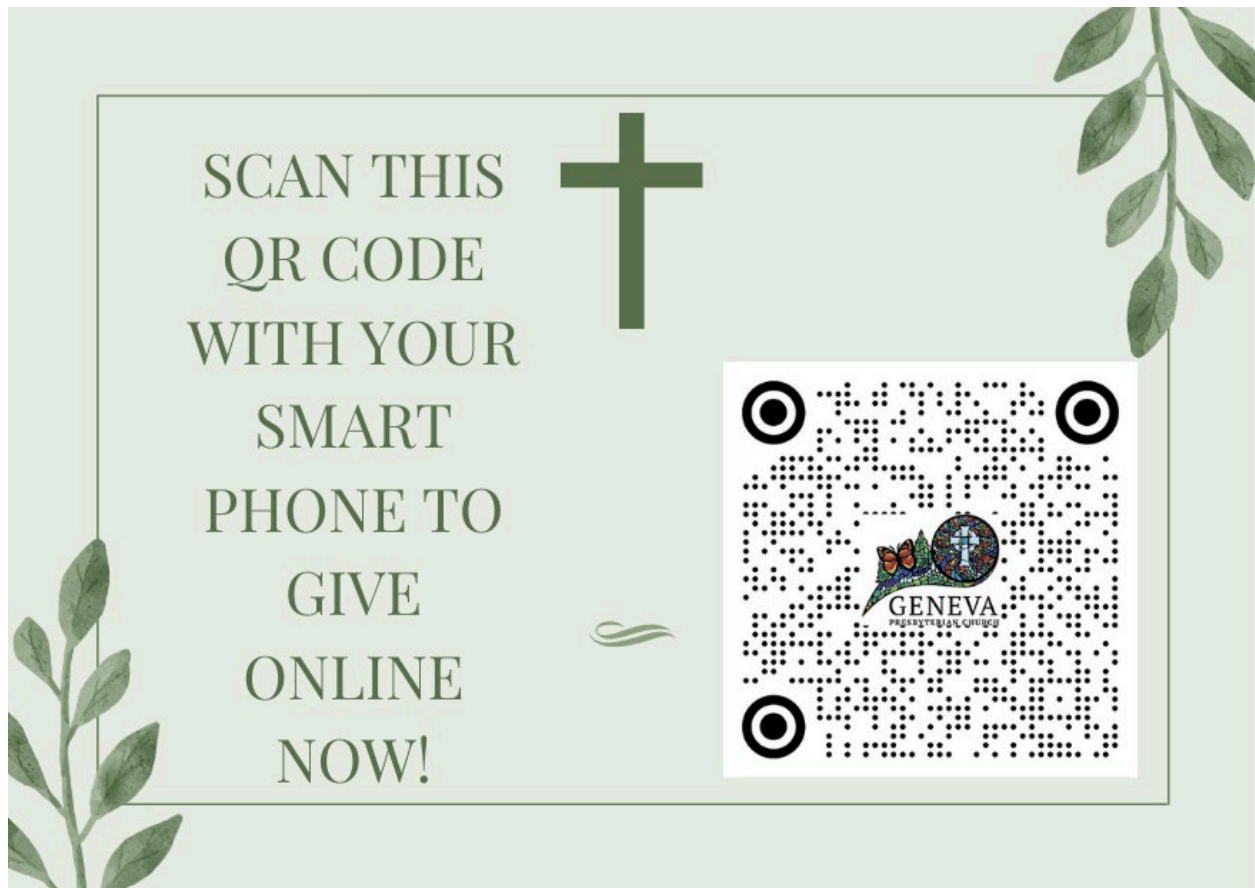
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;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

“Glory in the Highest” from *A Brand New Hallelujah* by Jay Rouse

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

Closing Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#113

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain
Glo - - - ri - a

in ex-cel-sis De - o! Glo - -

- - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

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

Bobbie Maxwell;
Andy Sullivan, Friend of the McElwaine Family;
John Wright;
Michelle Wilson (husband, Myles, and son, Holden), friend of Tom Sadler;
Justin Pack, nephew of PJ Davis;
Vince Lupo's family member, Uncle Lawrence Lupo;
Tina Martin, Sister-in-Law of Ken Sprinkle;
The family of Katie Richards Roome, friend of Letitia Denaburg;
Emmanuel Mbi;

Healing and Comfort for

Rolf Winch, recovering from knee surgery;
Helen Fink, Carolyn Fink's mother in law, health concerns;
Kevin Shaver, health concerns;
Breanne Spriggs, Allyson McElwaine's cousin, recent surgery;
Mike Sydoriak, health concerns;
Eleanor Rassmussen, Allyson McElwaine's aunt, 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;
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;
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;

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

Sunday, December 15	10:30am	Worship - Advent week 3
Sunday, December 15	11:45am	Christmas Craft Fair
Sunday, December 15	5:00pm	Christmas Concert - Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs
Tuesday, December 17	10:00am	Bobbie Maxwell's Memorial Service In-Person at Geneva and Online
Wednesday, December 18	6:00pm	Adult Bible Study - Online



A decorative wreath of pink poinsettias and green leaves on a dark blue background.

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Advent, please email **Laura Szakos** in the church office at admin@genevapotomac.org

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

Cost: \$15/plant
Deadline: Monday, Dec. 16

Please note your check or cash "Poinsettias" or pay online as a "special gift" below:

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

A cartoon illustration of a gingerbread man with a smiling face and heart-shaped decorations.A cartoon illustration of four children in Christmas attire singing from a book, with musical notes floating around them.

COOKIES & CAROLS

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

 **DEC. 22nd**
After 10:30 Worship
(approx. 11:45)

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

Christmas Eve Service

Join us for an interactive service of bells, prayers and hymns as we hear the Christmas story from Mary, Joseph, the innkeeper and shepherds! This will be a wonderful service for families and worshippers of all ages.



December 24, 2024
5 pm



Geneva Presbyterian Church
11931 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD

Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor; Ben Shaver, Music Director;

Carl Perthel, Lector; Kyla Lupo, Zoom Host.

Ken Denaburg and Tom Sadler, Audio/Visual

Church Elders	Church Deacons
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

Ben Shaver, Music Director, music.genevapotomac@gmail.com

Cali Bronkema, Next Generation Director, nextgen.genevapotomac@gmail.com

Laura Szakos, Church Office Administrator, admin@genevapotomac.org

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