

PRAYER of
CONFESSION

Leader: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

People: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; and lacked gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us.

As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Silent prayer)

ASSURANCE of
PARDON

Leader: Friends believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen!

◆ GLORIA PATRI
Glory to God, #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

TIME with CHILDREN

Rev. Jessica Tate

◆ HYMN 115

Away in a Manger

Mueller

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Rev. Jessica Tate

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 8

Pg. 542

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Brightest and Best

Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:1-6

Pg. 282

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

A New Orientation

Rev. Meghan Brown

◆HYMN 163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Aberystwyth

◆DECLARATION of
FAITH

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE
and 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING and
OFFERTORY
Passing of the Fellowship Books

Romance, Op. 94, No. 1

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Peter Davies, oboe

◆DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

◆HYMN 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

◆BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

Jubilate Deo

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German (b. 1954)

About Today's Service

About Today's Music: The anthem this morning is a musical setting of an Epiphany “Brightest and Best” composed in 1811 by Anglican bishop Reginald Heber. It has been adapted to several tunes and is widespread in Christian hymnals. Artists like Glen Campbell and Kathy Mattea have recorded it, and it holds cultural significance, evidenced by Jean Ritchie's rendition and its preservation by the Library of Congress in 1951.

Flowers: The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God

Ushers: Rick Del Sontro (Captain), Lucy Coble Joyce, Veronique Dupont, Eric Durbin, Kristin Froehle, Claire Hunn, Catherine Johnson, Bryan Scott, Michele Tate Wilson and Jimmy Wilson

Children's Worship Leaders: Rev. Camille Cook Howe, Jaime Hart, and Priscila Rodriguez

Nursery Caregivers: Gamage Perera, Swarna Nawarantha, and Udeni Passaramudalige

The Liturgy today was adapted from the work of Philip Gladden and the Presbyterian Outlook

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe
cch@gtownpres.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Jessica Tate
jet@gtownpres.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Meghan Brown
mb@gtownpres.org

Director of Music

Mark Willey
maw@gtownpres.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Jennie Lopez
jdl@gtownpres.org

Office Administrator

Nicole Larson
nbl@gtownpres.org

Director of Children's Music

Regina Andrade
andradergina27@gmail.com

Bookkeeper

Robin Peterson
bookkeeper@gtownpres.org

Custodian

Clifford Ford
cxfnite@comcast.net

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 31

10:15am Nursery
10:45am Singing with Ms. Regina
11:00am Worship**

Monday, January 1

Office Closed

Sunday, January 7

9:00am Officer Training
9:45am Nursery
10:00am Sandwich Making (PreK-2nd), and
Sunday School (3rd-5th)
10:45am Singing with Ms. Regina
11:00am Worship**
12:00pm Punch Bunch

**Event will be conducted virtually.*

***Both virtual and in-person options will be available.*

Announcements

Stewardship 2024: Sharing God's Story

Please show your appreciation for your many blessings, and your dedication to this Church with a Stewardship gift for 2024. We ask everyone to participate, especially those who have not given before. If you are particularly blessed this year, please increase your intent. The Bible asks us to joyfully give thanks to God. Let us also be joyful givers so we can continue to "Share God's Story." Please fill out the intent card in the pews and return it to the offering plate or fill out the online intent form at gtownpres.org/stewardship.

Celebration of Jennie Lopez

Mark your calendars and please join us on February 4th after the service to celebrate Jennie Lopez and all that she has done as our Children's Ministry Director.

YCW Volunteers

YCW is looking for more volunteers in 2024! We welcome parent and non-parent volunteers to our group of greeters and storytellers. GPC will offer a Zoom training led by Emma Marshall on Saturday, January 27 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, and an in person training with YCW veteran and elder Katie Novaria on Sunday, January 28 from 12:15 - 2:15 pm, with lunch provided. Please email Jennie to let her know which training you plan to attend.

Epiphany Celebrations

Next Sunday, January 7th, we will celebrate Epiphany during worship and Punch Bunch! Epiphany marks the arrival of the magi to pay homage to the baby Jesus. During worship, we will receive "star words" for the year, then in Punch Bunch we will share a King's Cake and have crafts.

Thank you to all GMC Extends Volunteers

Thank you for embodying the best of Christian faith by helping show hospitality and feed our neighbors who are hungry and without homes. In the past three weeks we served more than 480 meals and had more than 130 volunteers to make it possible. Thank you GPC.

Young Adult Dinner and Outing

Thursday, January 11, 2024 5:15 pm Dinner at Founding Farmers and Distillers (600 Massachusetts Avenue NW) then 7 pm Rabbi Sharon Brous Talk at Sixth and I. In *The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World*, Rabbi Sharon Brous—named America's #1 Most Influential Rabbi by Newsweek and The Daily Beast—makes the case that the spiritual work of our time, as instinctual as it is counter-cultural, is to find our way to one another in celebration, in sorrow, and in solidarity.

GPC has purchased a block of 12 tickets for \$22 each. Email Pastor Meghan for more information!

*This event is specifically for Young Adults in the congregation, but all are welcome to join!

Worship

gtownpres.org/worship

Welcome to Georgetown Presbyterian Church, where people have gathered to worship for over 240 years. We worship each Sunday at 11:00am.

Serve

gtownpres.org/serve

Sign Up to Be a Greeter

You may have noticed the smiling faces of GPC's greeters, volunteers who welcome members and visitors each Sunday with a friendly word and a warm handshake (or elbow bump!). This is a great way to meet people in the congregation and help bring warmth and community to our congregation. To volunteer for this fun and important role, visit gtownpres.org/connect.

Georgetown Saturday Suppers

Saturday Suppers are back inside! The last Saturday of every month, GPC members meet at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church to serve dinner to 30-60 neighbors who are hungry. The move inside means a return to seated suppers and hot food. It also means a jump from 4-5 volunteers to 10-12 volunteers every last Saturday. Email info@gtownpres.org if you would like to get involved. To support, visit gtownpres.org/give.

Connect

gtownpres.org/connect

New Member Conference

Interested in joining GPC? Learn more about membership and what it means to be a Presbyterian at our next New Member Conference on January 21st. Be in touch with Pastor Jessica for more information. Visit gtownpres.org/join to sign up.

Serve Punch Bunch!

We are seeking new and returning volunteers to contribute to our weekly Punch Bunch in 2024! Grab your family or some friends, take a trip to Safeway or Costco, and help us build and nourish our community in this time of fellowship. Sign-up online and find helpful resources for hosting at gtownpres.org/connect.

Requests for Prayers

Scan here or visit gtownpres.org/connect to fill out the care and support form. Responses will go directly to the GPC

Care Committee. Thank you for helping us care for yourselves and the broader GPC community.



Learn

gtownpres.org/learn

Children's Programming on Sunday Morning Education Hour 10:00 - 11:00 am

Sunday School: Children ages 3.5 - fifth grade are invited to attend as often as you are able at 10:00 am in the third floor classrooms. The Sunday School teachers will walk children down to the chapel for singing at the end of class.

Singing with Ms. Regina: Children of all ages are welcome to sing along with us in the chapel beginning at 10:45. Parents are invited to stay and sing together.

Confirmation Class: Confirmation class runs weekly from September through February for interested Youth in sixth grade and up. Class is led by Pastor Meghan at 10:00 am in the Youth Room.

Worship Hour 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Young Children and Worship: Following the Time with Children in the worship service, children in PreK-2nd grade are led upstairs to participate in this Montessori-based worship program. Parents should plan to walk upstairs to pick their children up from the classrooms.

Children's Church: Following the Time with Children in the worship service, children in 3rd - 5th grade are led to the chapel to participate in age-appropriate worship, led by one of our pastors and Ms. Regina. Children are dismissed back to the sanctuary or to punch bunch when Children's Church is over.

Youth Group

Youth Group meets a couple of Sunday evenings each month. If you're interested in receiving emails about youth group programming, please reach out to Jennie to be added to the list (JDL@gtownpres.org)

Give

gtownpres.org/give

Your gifts enable the mission and ministry of this church. To manage a current pledge or make a one-time gift, visit gtownpres.org/give or scan the QR code below.

To give of your time and talents, visit gtownpres.org/timeandtalents.



Daily Lectionary

<i>Monday</i>	Joel 3:1-2, 9-17
<i>Tuesday</i>	1 Peter 1:13-25
<i>Wednesday</i>	Psalms 12; 146
<i>Thursday</i>	Matthew 19:23-30
<i>Friday</i>	1 Peter 2:1-10
<i>Saturday</i>	Psalms 132; 134

Happy Birthday!

<i>December 31</i>	Aran Clair
<i>January 1</i>	Ed Lewis Sun Lewis
<i>January 2</i>	Ashley Goodspeed
<i>January 3</i>	David Cheek
<i>January 4</i>	Jeremy Ebie
<i>January 5</i>	Rick Del Sontro Eliza Pitcock

Serving Our City, United in Christ

Welcome to the Georgetown Presbyterian Church

If you are here for the first time, we extend a special welcome to you. Please take a moment to read through the bulletin which contains important information for the life of this congregation.

- Ushers are wearing red lapel tags and are in the back of the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask them.
- Please join us after worship for refreshments and fellowship in the Georgetown Room.

Children are always welcome!

- Worship bags are available for children who wish to stay in the worship service. Children can pick these up under the bench in the Narthex, and return them after church
- For our youngest children through three years old, nursery care is available upstairs beginning at 9:45am.
- After the Time with Children in the service, children can remain with their families or exit the Sanctuary with our Children's Worship leaders to continue age-appropriate worship. Please feel free to escort your children to their classroom to meet the leaders.

Navigating the Service

- Stars ♦ indicate when you are invited to stand if you are able.
- Bold text indicates that the congregation says this together, in one voice.
- Hymns can be found in the purple hymnals. Bibles are located at the end of the pews. Large print hymnals are available in the back of the Sanctuary.
- We receive communion once a month, and all are welcome.



THE
GEORGETOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

The Georgetown Presbyterian Church has been a steadfast presence in our nation's capital since 1780, ministering to generations of Washingtonians, serving our city, united in Christ. For more of our history, visit gtownpres.org/us/history.

3115 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20007 | (202) 338-1644 | gtownpres.org