



DECATUR  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
*Presbyterian Church (USA)*

*Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed*

November 28, 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

*(\*Please stand, as you are able. Assisted listening devices are available in the Narthex and the Philips Foyer.)*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Sleepers, Wake! A Voice is Sounding*

*J. S. Bach*

WORDS OF WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Alex Rodgers

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on the foundational essay by Charlene Jin Lee)*

Leader: We no longer have to wait and yearn for God, for God has come.

People: **God is near, ever near.**

Leader: We no longer have to wait and long to hear from God, for God has spoken.

People: **God is speaking.**

Leader: We no longer have to wait and imagine the day of our salvation, for the Savior has come to bring hope to the weary.

People: **God is here.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

*\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88 (stanzas 1,2,6,and 7)*

*Veni Emmanuel*

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from the Book of Common Worship)*

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength and hope; through Jesus Christ, your Son.  
*Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Dené Dixon and Ken Graff

Leader: Where do we hear of hope?

People: **Those who place their hope in the LORD will renew their strength and mount up with wings like eagles.**

Leader: Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,

People: **plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.**

Leader: On this first Sunday of Advent, let us now light a candle and open our ears to hear hope.

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jacob Crow

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(pew Bible, page 638, OT)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

John 1:1-14

(pew Bible, page 91, NT)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living**

SERMON

"Hear Hope"

Rev. Wilmesherr

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Declaration of Faith)

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle. The people of God have often misused God's promises as excuses for doing nothing about present evils. But in Christ the new world has already broken in and the old can no longer be tolerated. We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Jesus is LORD! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is LORD.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Speed

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.

ANTHEM

Jesus, Emmanuel

K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

O come, the broken heart to mend, The troubled soul to cure; With treasures of your grace, Come to the humble poor. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim; And heaven's eternal arches ring With your beloved name. He comes, the prisoners to release, In Satan's bondage held; Brass gates before him break, Strong chains and shackles yield. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim; And heaven's eternal arches ring With your beloved name. How glad the sound, the Savior comes! The Savior promised long; Let every heart prepare a throne, And every voice a song. Jesus, Emmanuel, come. [Philip Doddridge, altered]

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Elizabeth Webb and Rev. Fletcher

\*DOXOLOGY

Divinum Mysterium

Of the Father's love begotten, e'er the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega; He the Source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see:  
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Star of County Down

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Wilmesherr

\*ORGAN VOLUNTARY:

O LORD, How Shall I Greet Thee

J. S. Bach

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of  
*Sara Sadler Turnipseed*  
by Bill Turnipseed, and daughters Mary, Nancy & Cassie Turnipseed

† † †

### Angel Tree 2021

For the second year, Legacy Decatur, has organized *A Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur* to provide gifts for low income children and senior adults living in Decatur using only monetary donations. These funds will be used to purchase items with gift cards. Typically the value of the gifts has totaled approximately \$90,000, which is again the goal for this year. **Donations will be collected through the end of November.**

You can participate in supporting Angel Tree this year by making your fully tax-deductible donation to *A Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur*. Donations can be made online at **legacydecatur.org**. Designate your gift for *A Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur*. A donation confirmation will be provided online.

Donations can also be made by check. Write your check to Legacy Decatur and designate the gift to *A Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur* on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to:

Legacy Decatur, 500 South Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30030

A gift acknowledgment will be sent at the end of the year for tax purposes. Many people are suffering this year. Let's continue our Angel Tree tradition of giving generously to help our neighbors in Decatur.

† † †

### Christmas Decorations & Music Fund

Forms are available around the church and on our website to give to the Christmas Decorations & Music Fund for the beautiful decorations and special music we enjoy during the Christmas season. Gifts may be made in honor or memory of loved ones and will be included in a bulletin insert the Sunday before Christmas.

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### SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) Trip to Downton Abbey Exhibit

Sign up for the SAM Trip to Downton Abbey Exhibition on **Thursday, December 16**. Step into the rooms and view the costumes of the beloved PBS program. Tickets are \$36 for seniors and \$39 for adults, with timed entrances every half hour. **Choose 1:30 p.m.** or a later time Make your reservation and pay directly to the event sponsors ([www.downtonexhibition.com](http://www.downtonexhibition.com)). **Meet at DPC at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 16** to carpool to the exhibition near Perimeter Mall. Lunch first at la Madeliene near the event.

† † †

### DPC Recruiting Interim Church Administrator

DPC is carefully reviewing the administrative needs of the church and beginning the search process for a permanent staff person. We are grateful to Kathy Morse for filling the role of Interim Church Administrator since mid September but now are looking for someone else to take over that role beginning in January.

Please review the description of the position and its requirements. Forward it to anyone you know who might be a good fit. Brief position description:

Decatur Presbyterian Church (DPC), a 750+ member congregation in downtown Decatur, is seeking a full-time Interim Church Administrator for 3-4 months, beginning on January 3, 2022. Responsibilities include managing the day-to-day administration of the church office, overseeing the work of the physical plant manager and custodial staff in maintaining church property and grounds, and coordinating communications with the congregation and community via email, social media and print. Ideal candidate will be a detail-oriented, organized, self-starter with exceptional interpersonal and communications skills. Prior administrative office experience and knowledge of computer software required. Office management and supervisory experience strongly preferred. Prior work in a church setting a plus. This is a full-time, temporary position not eligible for benefits. For the full job description, email [adminsearch@dpchurch.org](mailto:adminsearch@dpchurch.org).

† † †

### Presbyterian Women Potluck Christmas Brunch

All women of the church are invited to the Potluck Brunch on Saturday, December 11 at 11:00 am in the Parlor. Come for food and fellowship! Bring a dish to share. Childcare is available by reservation to Emily Wilmesherr at [ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org](mailto:ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org)

**Festive Benefit Concert November 29**

**Monday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m., Atlanta Symphony Hall**

*Joy to the World, A Christmas Music Celebration* is a festive benefit concert featuring Emmit Cahill, a lead singer of Celtic Thunder, and joined by Atlanta’s own, Amy Little, the Georgia State University Singers, and other local musicians. All ticket sale proceeds benefit five ministries, including HOI (Honduras Outreach International). Tickets range from \$40 - \$80. Visit the ASO website to reserve tickets and get more information at [aso.org/events](http://aso.org/events).

**Look what’s coming up!**

We have lots of great things coming up! Look for more information in your announcement slides and church emails (if you’re not getting our emails, email [dhowell@dpchurch.org](mailto:dhowell@dpchurch.org)!) on these events:

**November 28–Young Adult Small Group** will meet at Alex Rodgers’ home at 5pm, looking at the second chapter of "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton. Email Alex for more info at [arodgers@dpchurch.org](mailto:arodgers@dpchurch.org)

**November 29–Benefit Concert for World Outreach Fund** featuring Emmit Cahill, at Atlanta Symphony Hall, 7pm

**December 4-12–Tour Creches from Different Lands** at The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

**December 11–Presbyterian Women Potluck Christmas Brunch** at 11:00 am in the Parlor

**December 5–Advent Festival** (3:30 to 4:30 pm in parking lot) and **Holy Ground Worship** (5pm in Parlor);

**Youth Group Dinner on the Square at 6:00 pm**

**December 12–Young Adult Christmas Gathering** 6pm, at Twain’s

**Youth Group Christmas Party at Sycamore House.** 6:00 TO 8:00 pm

**December 15–Longest Night Service of Prayer & Healing** at 5:30 pm

**December 19–Christmas Caroling** after worship

**December 21–College Connections Gathering**

**December 24–Christmas Eve Services:** 3:30 pm *Come As You Are Pageant* for Families with Young Children;

5:30 pm Child-Led Service with Communion; 10:30 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion



**Upcoming “Follow Me” Sermon Texts**

November 28  
December 5  
December 12  
December 19

Emily Wilmesherr  
Todd Speed  
Alex Rodgers  
Todd Speed

*Advent Theme: Hope*  
*Hear Hope*  
*See Hope*  
*Share Hope*  
*Proclaim Hope*

John 1:1–14, Isaiah 9:2, 6–7  
Isaiah 9:2, Psalm 139:11–12, John 1:1  
Mark 2:1-12  
Luke 4:16-21

Our program year curriculum for 2021-2022 is  
“Follow Me–Biblical Practices for Faithful Living”

*Follow Me is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this new curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now.*

“Follow Me” is an exciting new inter-generational curriculum that will guide our worship and faith formation for the 2021-2022 program year. The Follow Me curriculum will have a new emphasis each month, walking through many of the foundational aspects of faithful Christian discipleship over the course of the next year. We are very excited about the potential of this new curriculum to nurture faithful living as we explore core biblical and spiritual practices. Check out the Wednesday Night discussion group led by Todd Speed and Alex Rodgers called Faithful Living at 5:30 to 6:15 pm!



Scan this code with your smart phone to give online!



**DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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