



Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed

December 5, 2021

2nd 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

Variations on "Come, Savior of the Nations"
Calvert Johnson, *guest organist-choirmaster*

Anton Heiller

WORDS OF WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

Pastor: The LORD be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*John 1:14*)

Leader: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

People: **Let us worship God!**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Genevan 42

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Alex Rodgers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*adapted from Beth Merrill Neel, www.holdfasttowhatisgood.com*)

Confessing is like walking into a dark cave, seeing nothing, hearing nothing—We do not know what we will find there. Maybe we will find the bones of things long dead. Maybe we will find the silence not at all quiet, but full of unknown rustles. Maybe we will find ourselves, and find old hurts or desires that are long dead, and find some urge or temptation that could carry us away in a heartbeat.

But it is only in the deepest dark that we can see the tiny light that is always present, that sliver that comes from an unknown place, that sliver of light that give us hope, that sliver of light that looks a bit like grace. It is only in the stillest silence that we can hear the whisper of mercy. Let us enter into silence.

(a time of silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends. Sisters, Brothers: hear this good news and see the grace of God:
You are forgiven. You are free to go and live in the light of love.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Helen and Mary Goodwin

Leader: Where have we seen hope?

People: **We have seen hope in the light of a candle that illuminated the face of one and then was spread to others, illuminating the faces of many.**

Leader: Where do we see hope?

People: **We see hope in the child who was born to us, the One whom we have called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Where will we see hope?

People: **We will see hope when we turn to the Light, the One who shines in the darkness, the One whom the darkness will never overcome.**

Leader: On this second Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle of hope as we look for the Light among us.

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Speed

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Isaiah 9:2-7
(pew Bible, page 638, OT)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:76-79
(pew Bible, page 58, NT)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living

SERMON

“See Hope”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Declaration of Faith)

Rev. Rodgers

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.

ANTHEM

The Best of Rooms
Chancel Choir

Charles Wood

Christ, He requires still, whereso e'er He comes to feed our lodge, to have the best of rooms. Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part of all the house: The best of all's the heart.
[Robert Herrick]

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Rodgers

Scan the QR Code on the back of the bulletin to give online!

*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.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Wilmesherr

Responding with Thanksgiving

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher, IV

Leader: The LORD be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the LORD.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: All honor and praise and glory be to God.

People: The LORD's name be praised forever.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus 552 (choir and congregation)

arr. Richard Proulx

Holy, Holy, Holy LORD God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Rev. Wilmesherr and Rev. Fletcher

Agnus Dei (choir and congregation)

arr. Richard Proulx

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us Lamb of God, and grant us Your peace.

The Sharing of the Joyful Feast with the Community of Faith

Please exit your pew to the right to come forward to receive the elements. Raise your hand if you are unable to come forward and we will bring the elements to you.

Communion Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Wilmesherr

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 97*

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Aberystwyth

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

Dr. Speed

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Deep Peace
Chancel Choir

Ron Alexander/John Bell

Deep peace of the running wave to you; Deep peace of the flowing air to you; Deep peace of the quiet earth to you; Deep peace of the shining stars to you; Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. *[ancient Gaelic rune]*

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY*

O Savior of the Nations Come

J. S. Bach

† † †

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of our beloved wife and mother

Barbara Reich
by Bob & Rob

† † †

Welcome Guest Organist

Matt McMahan, Organist and Choir Master, will be traveling to Harrisburg, PA, this weekend for an organ recital and Lessons and Carols Service at Pine Street Presbyterian Church. Filling in for Matt on December 5 will be **Dr. Calvert Johnson**, retired professor of organ at Agnes Scott College and former organist for First Presbyterian Church of Marietta.

† † †

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.

† † †

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). **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.

† † †

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, if you wish—but not required to attend! Childcare is available by reservation to Emily Wilmesherr at ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org

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.

† † †

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!) on these events:

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 11—Presbyterian Women Potluck Christmas Brunch at 11:00 am in the Parlor

December 12—Young Adult Christmas Gathering 6:00 pm, 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—Fellowship Brunch and Christmas Caroling after worship

December 21—College Connections Gathering at Comet Lanes, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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

Advent Theme: Hope

December 5

Todd Speed

See Hope

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:76-79
Psalm 139:11-12, John 1:1

December 12

Alex Rodgers

Share Hope

Mark 2:1-12

December 19

Todd Speed

Proclaim Hope

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.



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DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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