



DECATUR
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed

March 6, 2022

1st Sunday in Lent

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

Andante in D minor

William Wolond

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Fletcher

Leader: Draw near to God

People: **and God** (*raise both arms to the sky*)

will draw near to us. (*bring hands toward heart, crossing them over your heart*)

Leader: When we fast, we free up space to ponder God's goodness.

People: **Let us** (*extend arms forward, palms facing upward*)

keep company (*bend elbows and bring together hands in prayer*)

with Jesus. (*sign "Jesus" using right middle finger touching the middle of left palm, repeat with left middle finger touching the middle of right palm*)

*OPENING HYMN 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

Love Unknown

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, whose ways are good and true, we confess that we have not lived as Christ has called us to live. We have shut our eyes to evils our world allows. We have sealed our ears from the cries of the suffering whose pain we abide. We have clung to the hostility we harbor against one another and hardened our hearts to the creative power of love.

Therefore, we pray: Open our eyes to see injustice in our world. Give us courage to resist the powers that would oppress others. Open our ears to hear the cry of those in need. Teach us generosity for sharing the abundance of your creation. Open our minds to imagine an end to human strife. Grant us wisdom to pursue the ways of peace. Open our hearts to love our neighbors and our enemies near and far. Give us desire to embody the compassion of Christ. For the sake of the world, in the name of Christ we pray.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: HYMN 423 (stanza 1)

Saraday

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God (Psalm 51)

(sung first by cantor, followed by choir and congregation)

Children are invited forward during the hymn. Following the Intergenerational Moment, children ages 4 to 3rd grade have the option of attending Children's Chapel in the Children's Ministry classroom. For pick up after worship, exit the sanctuary through the door by the piano and walk past the reception desk and take the stairs all the way down. Then, turn left to go down the short set of stairs. The room is the first on your left. If you need assistance finding this space, please ask an usher.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT: What is a spiritual practice, and what is fasting?

Rev. Wilmesherr

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

Adults: May God be with you there.

Children: May God be with you here.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Speed

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 4:1-4; 6:16-18
(*pew Bible, page 3, NT*)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living

Practice Spiritual Disciplines: "Fast"

SERMON

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (edited from 2nd Helvetic Confession, Book of Confessions, PC(USA), 1561)* Rev. Fletcher

Private fasts are undertaken by each one of us, as we feel ourselves withdrawn from the Spirit. For in this manner we withdraw the flesh from its fuel.

All fasts ought to proceed from a free and willing spirit, and from genuine humility, and not feigned to gain the applause or favor of men, much less that a man should wish to merit righteousness by them. But let every one fast to this end, that we may deprive the flesh of its fuel in order that we may the more zealously serve God.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Fletcher

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

**DOXOLOGY 708 (stanza 1)*

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Schumann

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;

All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O LORD, from Thee.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Wilmesherr

Responding with Thanksgiving

Rev. Fletcher

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. Wait until you return to your seat to partake of the elements. Raise your hand if you are unable to come forward and we will bring the elements to you.)

Communion Anthem

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Claude Bass

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts, Thou fount of life, Thou joy of man, From the best bliss that earth imparts, We turn, unfilled, to Thee again. Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood: Thou savest those that on Thee call; To those who seek Thee, Thou art good, To those that find Thee, all in all. Our restless spirits yearn for Thee, Where'er our changeful lot is cast, Glad when Thy gracious smile we see, Blest when our faith can hold Thee fast. O Jesus, ever with us stay, Make all our moments calm and bright; Chase the dark night of sin away, Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.

[Bernard of Clairvaux, translated, Ray Palmer]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Wilmesherr

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**CLOSING HYMN 498*

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Beach Spring

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

Dr. Speed

**CHORAL RESPONSE*

Deep Peace

John Bell and Ron Alexander

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*

Prelude in C Major

J. S. Bach

† † †

Music

Matthew McMahan, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Chancel Choir of Decatur Presbyterian Church, Ivan Segovia, *baritone soloist*

† † †

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of a wonderful wife & mother

Barbara Reich

by Bob and Rob Reich

† † †

Sign Up for Hunger Walk–TODAY

The Atlanta Hunger Walk is back after taking a couple of years off! Join the youth group in walking and raising money to fight hunger in our city. Proceeds go to support the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the distance is 5K, and participants can choose to walk or run. We will depart from DPC around 12:15 and head to downtown Atlanta, the walk starts at 2pm. Registration fee is \$25. It's not too late to sign up to join the DPC Team for the Hunger Walk today! Simply go to <http://engage.acfb.org/goto/DPCYouth> and sign up!

† † †

Wednesday Night Activities Resume March 9

Wednesday Nights are back! Starting March 9, in-person children's choirs and programs (5:00–6:15 pm), Practicing Spiritual Disciplines Group led by Todd Speed (5:30–6:15 pm), Dinner (6:15–7:00 pm; \$10 adults/\$5 children/\$30 family max), and Mid-Week Worship, a brief, casual time of worship held in the Parlor (7:00–7:30 pm). RSVP for meals at <https://tinyurl.com/DPCdinners>. Masks are to be worn unless eating or drinking.

NEW! Mid Week Worship! Wednesdays 7:00–7:30 pm in the Parlor.

Simple, Engaging, Inter-Generational Time of Worship

March 9: *Verbs of God–What Does God Do?*, Todd Speed; March 16: *Characteristics of God–What's God Like?*, Tully Fletcher
March 23: *Metaphors of God–What's Like God?*, Drew Wilmesherr; March 30: *Names of God–What Do We Call God?*, Emily Wilmesherr

† † †

Compassion Camp June 6–10

This summer DPC will be hosting **Compassion Camp: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You.** Rising 3 year olds through rising 6th graders are invited to participate in a hybrid VBS program. Camp week will be June 6-10. Registration available online at dpchurch.org Contact Rev. Emily Wilmesherr with any questions (ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org).

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

The current Russian invasion that started on February 24 follows eight years of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are enduring bombings and assault by Russian military forces; and have lost power, been cut off from water and fuel. As people head toward the western regions, there is a shortage of food and other basic supplies. The reports of displaced persons inside Ukraine continue to rise every day, already in the hundreds of thousands. The UN anticipates that as many as 6.7 million will be displaced internally. In the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Initial assistance being provided includes shelter, food, clothing, blankets, baby food and diapers, other hygiene supplies, flashlights and candles, generators and fuel. Our first priority is to provide funding to these partners on the ground.

Gifts can be made online, by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line.

Look what's coming up!

Look for more information in our announcement slides and church emails on these events (if you're not receiving our emails, please contact dhowell@dpchurch.org!):

March 9–Wednesday Night Activities Resume! Children's choirs and programming, Wednesday Night Supper, Spiritual Disciplines group, NEW Mid-Week Worship, Chancel Choir rehearsal

June 6-10, Compassion Camp, 9 to 12 pm, for 3 year olds to rising 6th graders. In-person & at-home options. Registration is open on our website www.dpchurch.org

June 12–18, Montreat High School Youth Conference for rising 9th graders through graduating seniors, contact Tully Fletcher for more info (on all youth events) at tfletcher@dpchurch.org

June 26–July 1, Middle School Youth Mission Week with multiple mission projects around Atlanta

July 9–16, High School Youth Mission Trip destination TBD

July 20–24, Montreat Middle School Youth Conference for youth who have completed 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade, held at Maryville College in Maryville, TN

“Follow Me” Upcoming Sermon Texts

March/Lenten Theme—Practice Spiritual Disciplines

March 13	Todd Speed	<i>Pray</i>	Matthew 6:1–15
March 20	Todd Speed	<i>Listen to God</i>	1 Kings 19:1–18, John 10:27, Revelations 3:20
March 27	Tully Fletcher	<i>Embrace Simplicity</i>	Matthew 6:19–21, Philippians 4:11–12
April 3	Todd Speed	<i>Unplug</i>	Genesis 2:1–3, Mark 1:35–39

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 this new curriculum and its potential to nurture faithful living as we explore core biblical and spiritual practices.



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