



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

March 20, 2022

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent/Ordain and Install Elders

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

*The Peace May Be Exchanged (from "Rubrics")*

*Dan Locklair*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us here to worship.

People: **We are here, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.**

Leader: God calls us here to worship.

People: **We are here, ready to listen to God's Word, sometimes surprising and unexpected, sometimes a whisper in our heart.**

Leader: God calls us here to worship.

People: **We are here, ready to listen to the Holy Spirit as God speaks to us.**

All: **Let us worship God together!**

\*OPENING HYMN 720

*Jesus Calls Us*

*Galilee*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Tully Fletcher IV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (by Teri Peterson ([www.liturgylink.com](http://www.liturgylink.com)))

**Loving God, you are always speaking, giving us instructions, directing our attention, and telling us your love. We confess that sometimes we are not very good listeners. We aren't sure what is your voice, and what is ours, and what is just noise. We are easily distracted. We like our own ways. But even when we are too busy, you still call. We admit that we find you difficult to hear, and we ask for your help. Open our minds and hearts. Tune our ears to your voice. Help us to listen to what you have to say, and then help us to follow wherever you lead.**

*(Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.)*

**Thank you, God, for hearing us, and for speaking to us. Remind us of your love and forgiveness, and give us strength to be faithful to you. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO PARDON HYMN 423 (stanza 3)

*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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 'ALL IN' for Children's Ministry*  
<https://tinyurl.com/5wu3y9vr>

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

*OLD TESTAMENT READING*

1 Samuel 3:1-11  
(*pew Bible, page 247, OT*)

Leader: The Word of the LORD.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

*SERMON*

**Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living**  
*Practice Spiritual Disciplines: "Listen to God"*

Dr. Speed

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)*

Rev Fletcher

**The Bible is to be interpreted in the light of its witness to God's work of reconciliation in Christ. The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are nevertheless the words of men, conditioned by the language, thought forms, and literary fashions of the places and times at which they were written. They reflect views of life, history, and the cosmos which were then current. The church, therefore, has an obligation to approach the Scriptures with literary and historical understanding. As God has spoken God's word in diverse cultural situations, the church is confident that God will continue to speak through the Scriptures in a changing world and in every form of human culture.**

**God's word is spoken to God's church today where the Scriptures are faithfully preached and attentively read in dependence on the illumination of the Holy Spirit and with readiness to receive their truth and direction.**

*SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION*

Dr. Speed

*PRESENTATION OF THE ELDERS*

Hikie Allen IV, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

*Elected Elders to be Ordained & Installed:*

Barbara Morris

Josie Harris

*THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE ELDERS*

Dr. Speed

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him LORD of all and Head of the church and through him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you?
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
4. Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
5. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
6. Will you in your own life seek to follow the LORD Jesus Christ, love your neighbors and work for the reconciliation of the world?
7. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
8. Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?
9. Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church? Will you teach charity, urge concern and direct the people's help to the friendless and those in need? And in your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

*THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION*

Hikie Allen IV

Do we, the members of Decatur Presbyterian Church, accept these persons as elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

*(Please answer, "WE DO.")*

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church? *(Please answer, "WE DO.")*

*(The elders to be ordained shall kneel, and the Session invites all ordained ministers and elders to participate in the laying on of hands during the prayer.)*

*PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
and THE LORD'S PRAYER*

Rev. Fletcher

**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.**

*STATEMENT BY THE MODERATOR*

Dr. Speed

You are now elders in the church of Jesus Christ and members of the Session for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. **Amen.**

*ANTHEM*

*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*  
Chancel Choir

*arranged, Lani Smith*

Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Thou art the potter, I am the clay; Mold me and make me after thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still. Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Search me and try me, Master, today. Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now: As in thy presence humbly I bow. Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way, Wounded and weary, help me, I pray. Power, all power surely is thine. Touch me and heal me, O Savior divine! Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Hold o'er my being absolute sway. Fill with thy spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me. *[Adelaide Pollard]*

*PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS and PRAYER OF DEDICATION*  
*Scan the QR Code on the back of the bulletin to give online!*

Dr. Speed

*\*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.**

## **FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

*\*CLOSING HYMN 800*

***Sometimes a Light Surprises***

*Salley Gardens*

*\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

Dr. Speed

*\*ORGAN VOLUNTARY*

*Postlude in D*

*Buryl Red*

† † †

**Music**

Matthew McMahan, *Organist & Choirmaster*

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

† † †

**Sanctuary Flowers**

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of my parents

*George and Phyllis Kelly*

by Trish Kelly Allen

### Gift of Music

The anthem, “*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*” (arranged by Lani Smith)  
is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
*Francis and Mary Ripley*  
by Martin and Lonnie Ripley

† † †

### This Child Here

*THIS CHILD HERE* is a registered non-profit and validated ministry in the Presbyterian Church USA at work in the country of Ukraine. Currently, we are focused on aid for refugees and supplies for those who have decided to stay in their cities and homes. Over the past 15 years, our people have run programs for street kids and children in orphanages. We have trained foster parents, offered camps for families displaced by the war, taught peacemaking techniques to teens, and led group therapy for the children of soldiers. We are already looking ahead to programs we will design to help people cope with life following the end of this conflict.

<http://www.thischildhere.org>

Robert Gamble is a graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy, and served five years as an officer. He graduated from Columbia Seminary in Decatur, GA (D.Min.) and Princeton Seminary, Princeton NJ. (Th.M.) He has served churches in Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New Mexico, Western Maryland and Tennessee. He began to work in Peacemaking in the 1980's during the conflict in Central America, chairing the Peacemaking Committee of Memphis Presbytery, traveling to Nicaragua and helping coordinate Peacemaking Conferences in Montreat NC. He has been at work in Ukraine with *This Child Here* since 2006.

**Dr. Speed will host a gathering in the Keith Parlor on March 27 at 9:30 am with Robert and he will speak during the service that morning.**

† † †

### Wednesday Night Activities Have Resumed

Wednesday Nights are back! Join us for 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 23: *Metaphors of God–What's Like God?*, Drew Wilmesherr

March 30: *Names of God–What Do We Call God?*, Emily Wilmesherr

† † †

### Open Dates on DPC's Flower Calendar

We have a couple of open dates on the upcoming Flower Calendar. **March 27 and May 29 are open.** If you are interested in providing flowers for the sanctuary worship service on either of those dates, please contact our Flower Calendar Coordinator Lee Smith at [smithle@bellsouth.net](mailto:smithle@bellsouth.net)

† † †

### Unique Lenten Opportunity

The Social Justice Committee (SJC) is offering a unique and meaningful Lenten worship opportunity. On Saturday, April 9, at 2:00 pm, the SJC is hosting an outdoor Walking Stations of the Cross through downtown Decatur. We will meet in the courtyard outside Mulhern Hall at 2pm. All are welcome! (Rain date Sunday, April 10 @ 2PM)

† † †

### L'Arche Atlanta is Hiring!

Join L'Arche Atlanta's faith-based community of people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities as a Live-In House Assistant! This is a full-time salaried position to live and work in the L'Arche home in Decatur. No prior experience working with people with disabilities is required. House assistants build relationships of mutual care and support with people with disabilities, while providing direct care supports, such as assisting with activities of daily living, meal preparation, transportation, medication management, and the documentation associated with those activities. L'Arche provides room & board, competitive pay, health insurance, and generous paid time off. L'Arche invites and celebrates diversity – we welcome applicants from all backgrounds. For a full job description and to apply, visit [www.larcheatlanta.org/employment](http://www.larcheatlanta.org/employment).



### Help DPC Show Hospitality as Memorial Receptions Return

It has been so difficult for DPC to suspend memorial services and receptions during the last two years. Fortunately, as restrictions in this pandemic begin to be lifted, we can return to this ministry of compassion.

These services and receptions provide a wonderful opportunity to share memories of those we have lost and mourn their passing with family and friends.

There are several ways men and women can offer their time, talents, and donations to help the receptions ministry of this church.

Provide homemade or purchased sweet or savory food for the reception.

Help to plate food and arrange the serving tables.

Assist in serving refreshments and replenishing platters.

Join the clean-up crew after the reception.

Choose the dates that work best for you, it's not necessary to volunteer every time. Many services and receptions are held on Saturdays, though some take place during the week. Food can be dropped off at the church ahead of time.

If you have questions or would like more information, or if you're ready to sign up now, please contact either:

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr at [tewilmesherr@dpchurch.org](mailto:tewilmesherr@dpchurch.org)

Sue Bingeman at [suebing72@gmail.com](mailto:suebing72@gmail.com) or 770-653-6776

Kim Campbell at [rousaycamp@comcast.net](mailto:rousaycamp@comcast.net) or 404-294-0052

† † †

### Compassion Camp June 6–10

Save the Date! This summer DPC will be hosting **Compassion Camp: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You.** Rising 3 year olds through rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate in a hybrid VBS program. Camp week will be June 6-10. You can register for 1 of 2 options:

1. Receive a VBS kit with supplies and activities to work on at home at and your own pace. Live stream morning worship will be offered each day for you to tune into on the church's YouTube channel.
2. Join camp in-person from 9am-12pm for small group, in-door and outdoor activities.

Masks will be required regardless of vaccination status. In order to provide an in-person option, we will close registration on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to make sure we have enough volunteers to have a safe in-person camp. Camp and church leadership will continue to monitor the COVID numbers leading up to camp and will make adjustments as needed for our campers and volunteers to have a safe and meaningful camp week.

Registration will begin online February 13. Contact Rev. Emily Wilmesherr with any questions ([ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org](mailto:ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org)).

In order to make an in-person camp possible, we need a lot of volunteers. Here are some of the ways to help:

**Shepherds for small groups**- stay with a group throughout the week, guiding them through activities that are prepared in advance; **Rotation leaders and helpers**- In search of 2 adult leaders for art, reflection, or games as well as youth or adult assistants; **Carpool/Sign children in and out**- Helping children to arrive at and depart from camp safely each day. Checking temperatures and signing children in; **Camp Floaters**- help with tasks that arise during the week of camp; **Preparing kits and supplies** the week before camp; **Monetary donations** to help provide camper scholarships. Suggested donations of \$35 but any amount is helpful.

Masks will be required for volunteers regardless of vaccination status. Contact Rev. Emily Wilmesherr if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, [ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org](mailto: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.

† † †



## Lectio Divina Instructions

*"Read with a vulnerable heart. Expect to be blessed in the reading. Read as one awake, one waiting for the Beloved. Read with reverence."* Macrina Wiederkehr

"Lectio Divina" is Latin for "spiritual reading" or "holy reading". It is the ancient prayer practice that allows us to encounter the Living God through the written Word. When we practice Lectio Divina, we are saying to God... "Here I am. I am listening. I want You to speak into my life, for I know that when You do, I will be helped, healed and changed." In Lectio Divina, we come with an open heart and without an agenda... this allows God to do work within us, as God chooses. We begin by quieting our heart and mind and turning our focus to God. It helps to remember that we are entering into the presence of the Living God who is HERE... present with us in this place, this holy space. Let everything else go, as best as we can, and set the time aside for being with God and hearing God's voice.

The simple prayer practice of *Lectio Divina* takes us through four movements, as we are drawn closer to God through each prayerful reading of the chosen passage. Choose a short passage- just a few verses. Make yourself comfortable in a place that is as free from interruptions as possible. Begin with silence for a few minutes, humbly asking God to quiet your heart and make you aware that you are in God's loving presence.

When you are ready, begin reading and praying through the four movements, described below with both the Latin and English word that summarizes each one. With time and practice, these movements will become so simple and easy, because they flow naturally from one to the other:

**Lectio (READ):** On the first reading, simply open yourself to the presence of God. Read the passage slowly and prayerfully, allowing short pauses between sentences. (Over time you will discover whether it is more helpful for you to read silently or out loud- try them both...) As you read, take in the words and the overall flow of the passage. Then allow a time of silence following the reading- continue to open yourself to the Spirit of God.

**Meditatio (REFLECT):** On the second prayerful reading of the passage, listen for a particular word or a phrase through which God wants to speak to you. You will notice your attention being drawn to something (or if this doesn't happen, just choose a word). Once you have "received" the word or phrase, begin to silently meditate on that. Reflect on why God would highlight this for you today, ask any questions that come to mind, and note things that seem important as you meditate on what has been given to you. Remember that the focus is on listening to what God has to say to you.

**Oratio (RESPOND):** On the third prayerful reading of the passage, listen now for God's invitation, and respond from your heart. The Living God is always inviting us in some way... to let go of something, or to take up something; to do something or be something... the invitation can take innumerable forms. Following the reading, continue to listen for God's invitation and then respond silently or out loud from an honest heart.

**Contemplatio (REST):** The focus of the fourth prayerful reading of the passage is to simply rest now in the love that God has for you. Let the words wash over you- there is no further need to reflect or respond- allow God's Spirit to draw you close and fill you love, grace and peace. Linger in this place of deep connection, for you are being filled and refreshed for your continuing journey.

We encourage you to take a word, phrase or image with you when it is time to return to the day... something to which you can return throughout the day... something that will remind you of the love of God for you, and the special message for you today. ([www.journeycenter.org](http://www.journeycenter.org))

## The Examen

Today, I am grateful for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Today, I saw God in my life when...

I was faithful to what I believe when I...

I felt disconnected from God when...

One way I want to do things differently is...

Tomorrow, I need to accept that...

My prayer for tomorrow is...

## 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](mailto:dhowell@dpchurch.org)):

**Wednesday Night Activities Are Back!** Children's choirs and programming, Wednesday Night Supper, Spiritual Disciplines group, NEW Mid-Week Worship, Chancel Choir rehearsal

**April 10—Palm Sunday** begins Holy Week with palm processional and Emily Wilmesherr leading worship with communion

**April 14—Maundy Thursday**—service at 5:30 pm with communion led by Tully Fletcher. A meal on the Terrace Garden will follow (weather permitting)

**April 15—Good Friday Service** at 8:00 pm, a Choral Tenebrae service with the Chancel Choir

**April 17—Easter Sunday**, decorate the cross on the lawn at 9 am, Easter celebration service at 10:30 am

**June 6-10, Compassion Camp**, 9 to 12 pm, for 3 year olds to rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders. In-person & at-home options. Registration is open on our website [www.dpchurch.org](http://www.dpchurch.org)

**June 12-18, Montreat High School Youth Conference** for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders through graduating seniors, contact Tully Fletcher for more info (on all youth events) at [tfletcher@dpchurch.org](mailto: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** to Mobile, AL

**July 20-24, Montreat Middle School Youth Conference** for youth who have completed 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, held at Maryville College in Maryville, TN

### "Follow Me" Upcoming Sermon Texts

*March/Lenten Theme—Practice Spiritual Disciplines*

March 27 Tully Fletcher

*Embrace Simplicity*

Matthew 6:19-21, Philippians 4:11-12

April 3 Todd Speed

*Unplug*

Genesis 2:1-3, Mark 1:35-39

April 10 Emily Wilmesherr

*Try Different Practices*

Hebrews 4:15-16



*Actively Engaged in the World*

**A Bold Vision and Invitation:**

**Building Congregational Vitality**

**Dismantling Structural Racism**

**Eradicating Systemic Poverty**



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