



May 29, 2022

7th Sunday of Easter

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

Note about Candles

On the Table this morning there are 22 candles representing each life lost in the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on May 24, 2022: 19 students, 2 teachers, and the 18 year old shooter. There are also 11 larger candles representing the cities where significant mass shootings have occurred in 2022. 33 candles in total.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Preamble

Louis Vierne

WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Written by Kimberly Bracken Long)*

Leader: Friends in Christ, let us gather in the shelter of God's presence.

People: **Let us bless the Lord, for God has wondrously shown us steadfast love.**

Leader: God is indeed our rock and our refuge.

People: **God guides us and leads us.**

Leader: Into God's hands we commit our spirits, for God has redeemed us.

People: **Abundant is the goodness that the Lord has stored up for those who gather to worship God!**

**OPENING HYMN 28*

You Are Before Me, Lord

Sursum Corda (Smith)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Fletcher

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of infinite mercy and love, we come before you this day, knowing that we have not always been faithful to what you would have us do. We have too often turned our backs on those in need, choosing not to hear their cries.

Forgive us, O Lord. We know that you do not want us to behave in this way. Your love and mercy, so generously showered over us, should be a beacon to guide our own actions. We make no excuses, for none would suffice.

We ask your forgiveness and blessing, turning us again around and placing us on the path of compassion and peace. This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

Adults: **May God be with you there.**

Children: **May God be with you here.**

Following the Inter-generational Moment, children ages 4 to 3rd grade have the option of attending Children's Chapel in the Children's Ministry classroom. (Parents are welcome to walk out with us to see where we meet.)

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.

Today's Children's Chapel Leaders: Sarah Collier and Jason Crow

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living

SERMON

Honor God's Diversity: "*Centering Voices from the Margins*"

Rev. Wilmesherr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF EASTER FAITH

Rev. Fletcher

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast; that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the disciples, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

He is our Lord and our God.

With the faithful of every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

LITANY IN RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE

Leader: Loving God, who knows what it is to weep, thank you for journeying with us through the valley of death, for journeying with the people of Uvalde, Buffalo, Laguna Woods, and the more than 200 places in our country that have suffered a mass shooting this year alone.

We are in disbelief that another mass shooting has taken the lives of innocent children.

People: **Hear us as we pray, O Lord.**

Leader: We are filled with rage. We are overcome with questions. We want to do something, yelling into the void is not enough.

People: **Hear us as we pray, O Lord.**

Leader: If only we had better leaders. If only we had better laws. If only we had better mental health services. If only we were better. If only, if only, if only.

People: **Hear us as we pray, O Lord.**

Leader: We are heartbroken that this tragedy repeats itself over and over again, the same story on a new date, month after month, year after year, from Columbine, to Sandy Hook, to Robb Elementary.

People: **Hear us as we pray, O Lord.**

Leader: Our nation and culture have grown numb to this horror, most mass shootings do not make the news.

People: **Hear us as we pray, O Lord.**

[lighting of the candles in silence]

Leader: Giver of Life and Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in harmony and peace.

People: **Help us to recognize the ways we are unified as your body, so that we may support one another as we face the challenges and tragedies of gun violence.**

Leader: For those in power who offer thoughts and prayers but no action,

People: **Grant them wisdom and understanding.**

Leader: For the survivors of gun violence,

People: **Grant them comfort and healing.**

Leader: For first responders, police officers, fire fighters, and EMTs, and for the teachers who are on the front lines against such violence,

People: **Grant them protection and courage.**

Leader: For those who have lost loved ones,

People: **Grant them peace and relief.**

Leader: For those who crave violence, for those who choose to kill, for those who see no other way,

People: **Grant them love and patience and take away their evil desires.**

Leader: Ignite in us your Spirit of determination and compassion. Send us out into the world to be instruments of your peace.

People: **Go with us, and empower us to be agents of your love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.**

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.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

*(Please sign and pass the **Ritual of Friendship Register** at this time so that we might know your concerns, and keep you informed about the life and ministry of this community of faith.)*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ's Flock

Martin Shaw

In Christ's own flock let love be surely placed; In Christ's own flock let concord hate expel: Of Christ's own flock let love be so embraced, As we in Christ, and Christ in us may dwell. Christ is the author of all unity, From whence proceedeth all felicity. O sing unto this glitt'ring glorious King, O praises bring from every living thing: Let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. *Alleluia!* [text: adapted from Francis Kimmelwershe (c.1540-80)]

**EASTER DOXOLOGY*

Lasst uns Erfreuen

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Scan the QR Code to give online! ⇒



FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**CLOSING HYMN 769*

For Everyone Born

For Everyone Born

**BENEDICTION*

Rev. Wilmesherr

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY*

Old Hundredth

Johann Pachelbel

† † †

Music

Matthew McMahan, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Chancel Choir

† † †

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of
Margaret H. George
and her parents,
Mr. and Mrs. William H. George
by the family

† † †

Electronic Recycling TODAY

The DPC Threshold Ministry is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling opportunity this month! Bring your unwanted electronic items after worship on **Sunday, May 29 to the Fellowship Hall door at the main parking lot.** The volunteers will be at the Fellowship Hall door from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm. This will enable our Threshold Ministry to stock working tablets and laptops for their guests. Cell phones will be donated to partner agencies working with Domestic Abuse Survivors.

Accepting: Tablets, Cell Phones, Laptops, Desk Top Computers/Monitors, Batteries, and Small Electronics
NO TVs or appliances containing Freon accepted.

DPC is Seeking Part-Time Mission Advocate

Decatur Presbyterian Church (DPC), a 750+ member congregation in downtown Decatur, is seeking a Part-Time Mission Advocate, beginning on August 1, 2022. Primary responsibilities include connecting DPC members and visitors to mission-related volunteer opportunities within the church, community, and world, utilizing best practices for missional service.

12 hours/week on average, including most Sunday mornings 10am-noon, most Wednesdays 5-7pm, a weekend half-day almost monthly for projects or events, and an annual week long mission trip (with reasonable additional stipend). Hourly rate \$25.

Ideal candidate will be an organized self-starter who is committed to church missions. Program and volunteer management experience, along with exceptional interpersonal and communications skills, are preferred. This is a part-time position not eligible for benefits. For the complete job description, email tspeed@dpchurch.org. Applications due by June 13, 2022.

† † †

Wear Red for Pentecost & Welcome ASC Alumnae Next Sunday, June 5

Next Sunday, June 5, is Pentecost Sunday. On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.) **We invite everyone to wear something red to church!**

It will also be Alumnae Weekend at Agnes Scott College and instead of holding worship on their campus, they are shuttling folks to worship with us at DPC! We look forward to welcoming students and alumnae to worship. Look for name badges to wear if you have a connection to the college—alumnae, student, former/current staff, etc.

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):

May 29—Electronic Recycling sponsored by Threshold Ministry, after worship thru 1:30 pm, drive thru at Fellowship Hall door, main parking lot.

June 5—Pentecost Sunday, wear red to church! Also welcoming Agnes Scott College alumnae!

June 6-10, Compassion Camp, 9 to 12 pm, for 3 year olds to rising 6th graders. In-person & at-home options.

Register now 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

July 9–15, High School Youth Mission Trip to Mobile, AL

July 17—All Church Cook Out at Mason Mill Park, hamburgers and hot dogs provided, bring a side or dessert! 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

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

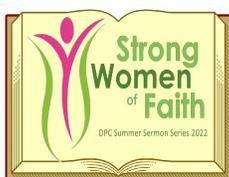
August 7—Kick Off Sunday; first Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs on **August 10**

“Follow Me” Upcoming Sermon Texts

Theme: Honor God's Diversity

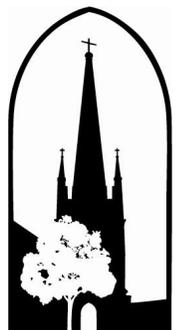
June 5 Todd Speed *“Challenging”—Work for Liberation While Challenging Oppression*; Numbers 27:1–11; Luke 6:27-31

June 12 Todd Speed *“Overturning”—Use Advantages to Overturn Inequality*; Mark 10:17–31; Luke 19:1-10



Summer Sermon Series: “Strong Women of Faith” Begins June 19

Join us this summer for a sermon series on *Strong Women of Faith*, featuring the stories of Sarah, Hagar, Miriam, Deborah, Ruth, Hannah, and Esther.



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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