



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Advent 2022

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Assisted listening devices are available in the Narthex and Philips Foyer.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations, Come)*

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 33)*

Leader: Praise the Lord with the lyre! Make melody to the Lord with the harp of ten strings!

People: **Sing to the Lord a new song! Play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts!**

Leader: For the word of the Lord is upright, and all God's work is done in faithfulness.

People: **God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

Leader: Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in God's steadfast love.

People: **Our souls wait for the Lord; God is our help and shield.**

Leader: Our hearts are glad in the Lord, because we trust in God's holy name.

People: **Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.**

*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wilmesherr

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the angel's song and the shepherd's joy, you sent Jesus among us as light of the world. You sent the child born in Bethlehem to reveal your love for all people. Yet we confess that our sin and our pride have hidden the brightness of your light and shaded our daily lives. We have turned away from those in need; we have ignored urgent cries for help; we have not worked diligently for peace in our homes or peace on earth...

(Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.)

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and renew us again with the Advent of your Son, who came that we may be forgiven and renewed, and that we may show forth your glory as we reflect the light and love of Jesus our Savior, in whose name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children are invited forward. Following the Inter-generational Moment, children ages 4 to 3rd grade have the option of attending Children's Chapel in the Children's Multi-Purpose Room.

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: Lucia Sizemore, Linda LeBron, and Lori McMahan

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT: LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE

Mark, Bekki, and Norah Poelker

**People: Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.
Peace is a dove that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.
Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born.
(Lighting of the fourth candle)
Love is a flame that burns in our heart, Jesus has come and will never depart.
When God is a child, there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong. And none shall be afraid.**

HYMN 466

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Confitemini Domino

(Choir sings once, congregation joins on repeat)

**Come and fill our hearts with your love, You alone, O Lord, are Holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your love; Alleluia.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:8-20
(pew Bible, page 58, NT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living

"Go Tell: Tell of the Hope Within You"

SERMON

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from the Belhar Confession, Article 3, BCW, pp. 612-13)* Rev. Wilmesherr

Leader: We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;

People: **And we believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Leader: We believe that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,

People: **And we believe that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;**

Leader: We believe that we must be prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, avoiding prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief.

People: **And we affirm the reconciling power of the gospel.**

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.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Nicole Jiskoot

*(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.)*

'ALL HANDS ON DECK' STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Steve Craw and Elizabeth Webb

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

Nicole Jiskoot

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!

[adapted from Revelation 22]

*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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Scan the QR Code on the back of the bulletin to give online!

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

arr. Keith Chapman

† † †

Music

Matthew McMahan, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Chancel Choir

† † †

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God	
in loving memory of	in loving memory of our amazing mother
<i>Dr. Benjamin Boyd Okel</i>	<i>Adelaide Owens</i>
by the family	by Peggy, Kathy and Reed Owens

† † †

All Hands on Deck "Empowered to Serve" Highlight

Thanks be to God! For **Lee Smith!** A 50-year member of DPC, she has been especially active this past decade. Lee is an Elder serving on Session assigned to the Belonging Team. She answers the phone and the door at the church regularly as a member of the Phone Guild and schedules the Flower Calendar for the sanctuary arrangements each week.

† † †

Threshold Gift Giving Idea

The perfect gift for the hardest person to buy for on your Christmas list? Make a donation to Threshold Ministries in their honor! Your gift of \$25, \$50 or \$100 may be appreciated more than a necktie or fruitcake and will provide much needed assistance to the clients who turn to Threshold in their time of need. Easier than finding a parking spot at the Mall! Just donate via your DPC giving method and designate the gift to Threshold. Shopping done. Now doesn't that put Christmas cheer into your heart?! Pick up a note card at the Reception Desk at the church to give to your gift honoree.

† † †

Open Dates on the 2023 Flower Calendar

We have two open dates on the Flower Calendar in January—**January 8 and 15**. If you are interested in providing flowers for the worship services on either of those dates, please contact our coordinator, Lee Smith, at smithle@bellsouth.net.

† † †

Christmas Joy Offering Collected Today

By giving to the Christmas joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. When all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

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):

December 18–SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) early dinner and Concert, 'Christmas on Clairemont' at FBC

December 19–Memorial Service for Ben Okel, 3:00 pm in the sanctuary, reception to follow in Keith Parlor

December 21–Longest Night Service at 5:30 pm in Scott Chapel, a service of prayer and comfort; Dinner at 6:15 pm

December 22–Memorial Service for Candler Broom, 3:00 pm in the sanctuary, reception to follow in Keith Parlor

December 23–College Connections Christmas Gathering at Comet Pub & Lanes, 8 to 11 pm

December 24–Christmas Eve Services at 3:30 pm ("Come as You Are" pageant for families with young children), 5:30 pm (child-led with communion), and 8:30 pm (candle-lit service of Lesson & Carols with communion)

December 25–Christmas Day service at 4:30 pm, church-wide potluck dinner at 5:30 pm (RSVPs requested)

December 26 & 27–DPC Church Office Closed

January 2–Church Office Closed

January 8–Epiphany Brunch after worship

February 16-20, 2023–Inter-Generational Hurricane Relief Mission Trip. DPC has begun planning an inter-generational mission trip to Hurricane Ian ravaged areas in Florida with other churches from our Presbytery for February. All ages and families are welcome. Contact Tully Fletcher at tfletcher@dpchurch.org if interested in participating

January's "Follow Me" Theme is "Honor Sabbath"

January 1	Tully Fletcher	"Celebrate Sabbath"	Matthew 12:1–8
January 8	Todd Speed	"Rest with God"	Genesis 1:26–2:3; Mark 6:30–46
January 15	Todd Speed	"Live in Holy Rhythm"	Exodus 20:8–11
January 22	Emily Wilmesherr	"Return with Gladness"	Luke 13:10–17



Actively Engaged in the World

A Bold Vision and Invitation:

- Building Congregational Vitality
- Dismantling Structural Racism
- Eradicating Systemic Poverty

DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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