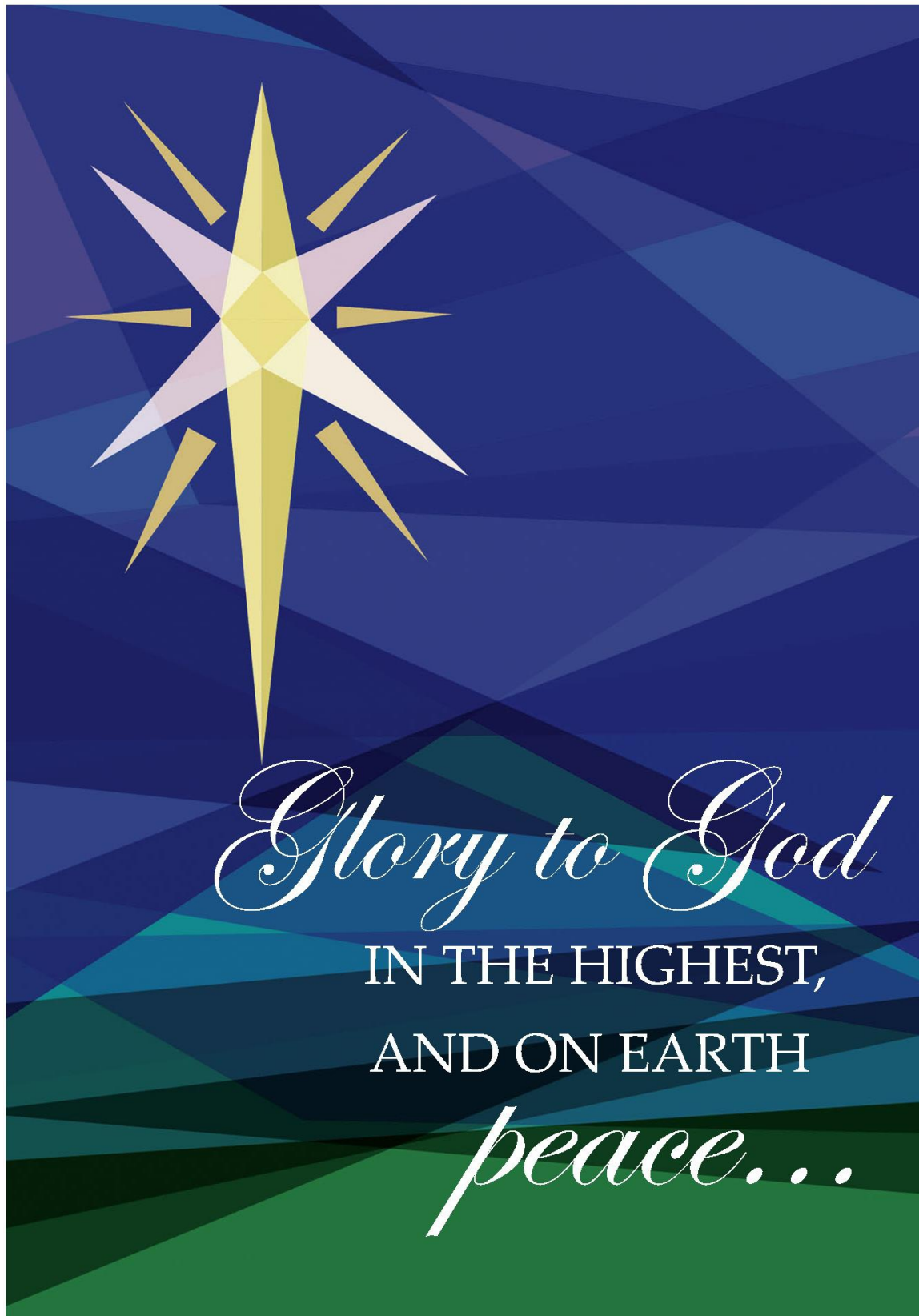


DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2022

5:30 p.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Please stand, as you are able.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Joy to the World

arranged, Herbert Colvin

WELCOME

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP*

Esther Mast

One: If you are like Joseph, and you are seeking truth,

All: There is room here for you.

One: If you are like Mary, and you are seeking rest,

All: There is a seat here for you.

One: If you are like the wise men, and you are looking for a sign,

All: These candles are here for you.

One: If you are like the angels, and you cannot help but sing,

All: There is a melody here for you.

One: Come in. You are in God's house. Love was born tonight, and there is love here for you.

All: Let us worship the God of love.

**OPENING CAROL*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

1. **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

***Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

- 2 **True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! *[Refrain]***
3. **Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *[Refrain]***

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND PRAISE*

Esther Mast

ANTHEMS:

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Spiritual

Cricket and Covenant Choirs

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night. Behold, through out the heavens There shown a holy light. Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

Away in a Manger

arr., Mack Wilberg

Covenant Choir; Lollie Newsome, *flute*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*, words by Linda LeBron

**Prepare me for Christmas, the Holy Child's birth, the gift for the ages, God coming to earth.
I pray that you change me this new Christmastide, that Jesus the Savior will live here inside.
Make me more like Mary who answered your call responding so bravely, she gave You her all.
Like Joseph please teach me to put pride away, to trust that your blessings will always repay.
Make me like the angels who knew He was King. Give me a new courage to fly and to sing.
Make me like the shepherds who did not delay, to tell all around me the good news each day.
No longer an inn keeper barring the door, too busy with living to kneel and adore.
Lord Jesus, please draw me to your manger dear, there I will find courage to live this new year.**

(As the carol is sung, choristers will go to sit with their families for the remainder of the service.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lou Boyce

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lou Boyce

**God of kings and shepherds, God of teenage mothers and step-parents, God of angel choruses
and starlight—**

We confess to waiting. We have waited to extend grace.

**We have waited to say “I love you.” We have waited to apologize. We have waited to be just,
choosing comfort and convenience over the needs of our neighbors. We have waited—waited for
someone else to make a move, waited for a sign, waited until it was our issue.**

You ask us to be the body of Christ, but in many ways, we have waited. Forgive us.

**Change us. Remind us of your love for the world, which can't wait. In your name we pray,
*Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Warner Burnham

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Allen, Dana, and Esther Mast

People: Love is a flame that burns in our heart, Jesus has come and will never depart.

The Christ Candle is lit.

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.

Scripture reading and prayer.

*CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

1. **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**
2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**
3. **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Fletcher

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM LUKE 2:1-20

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr, Rev. Fletcher

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“Go Tell”

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

DEACONS’ FUND OFFERING and PRAYER

Isla Schiener and Rev. Wilmesherr

(The Deacons’ Fund is an offering for a fund available to help members of our church family in times of financial crisis. Envelopes are available in the pew pockets.)

OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High
Jake Eagle, piano

19th Century French Carol

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Melinda Jereb and Dr. Speed

Celebrants: This is the joyful feast!

People: We have come from east and west. We have come from north and south to feast at God’s table.

Celebrants: *Who can come?*

No matter your age or where you are from, all God’s children are welcome at the table.

What do we remember?

We remember God’s Son, Jesus. He showed God’s love when he healed the sick and welcomed strangers. He died on the cross and rose from the dead, the biggest display of God’s love and forgiveness for the world.

What is special at this table?

People: This is the table of God’s family, where all are welcome and where we celebrate God’s love and faithfulness.

Celebrants: *Why do we share bread and cup?*

We eat bread at this table because before he died, Jesus gave bread to his disciples and said, “This is my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me.” We drink from the cup because at that same meal, Jesus gave his disciples the cup and said, “This cup that is poured for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

What happens when we share?

People: Jesus fills us with love and unites us all. The food nourishes our bodies, the Spirit nourishes our faith in Christ, and we are energized to share God’s love in the world.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Wilmesherr

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.

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
Sharing of The Joyful Feast with the Community of Faith*

Dr. Speed and Rev. Wilmesherr

(You are invited to proceed to the communion station nearest you where you will receive the bread and the cup. In an effort to make Communion safe and available to all, the bread served is free of gluten, dairy, nuts (tree nuts and peanuts), soy, corn, and casein. Eggs are used.)

CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht

1. **Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
2. **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**
3. **Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**
4. **Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Fletcher

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**CLOSING CAROL*

Joy to the World

Antioch

1. **Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
3. **No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

Dr. Speed

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY*

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional



The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of
Charlie Orth
by
Elizabeth Orth & his family



Welcoming Children to Worship

This is an inter-generational worship service, and we are pleased to welcome our youngest worshipers to the sanctuary tonight. On this night when we welcome the Christ child, please help us welcome all God's children by greeting those sitting around you!

There are worship bags in the narthex and the foyer children can use during the service and take home.



Join Us after Christmas! **Sunday Worship at 10:30 am**



January 'Follow Me' Theme: *Honor Sabbath*

January 1, 2023

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV preaching

Communion

Text: Matthew 12:1-8

Title: *Celebrate Sabbath*

January 8, 2023

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed preaching

Texts: Genesis 1:26–2:3 and Mark 6:30-46

Title: *Rest with God*

Ordain and Install Elder Class of 2025

Epiphany Brunch for All Ages after Worship

January 15, 2023

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed preaching

Text: Exodus 20:8-11

Title: *Live in Holy Rhythm*

January 22, 2023

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr preaching

Text: Luke 13:10-17

Title: *Return with Gladness*

Children's Choir Sings



Merry Christmas from the DPC Staff & Session

The Church Staff

Pastors

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV . . . Associate Pastor for Youth & Congregational Transformation tfletcher@dpchurch.org
Rev. Dr. Todd Speed Senior Pastor tspeed@dpchurch.org
Rev. Emily Wilmesherr Associate Pastor for Inter-Generational & Caring Ministries . . ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org

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Intern

Nicole Jiskoot Supervised Ministry Intern njiskoot@dpchurch.org

Affiliated Staff

Rev. Vernon Gramling, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care, vgramling@dpchurch.org
Drew Wilmesherr, UKirk Campus Minister for Agnes Scott College and Emory University, drew@ukirkatlanta.com



The Session

Clerk of Session: Dudley Larus
Asst. Clerks: Hieke Allen IV and Amy Pelissero

Treasurer: Tom Adams
Asst. Treasurers: Neal Davies and Kathy Smith

Class of 2022
Brian Beaubien
Steve Crow
Lynn Evans
Mike Florence
Roslynn Hight
Dudley Larus
Joe Mehlihop
Leslie Miller
David Wiley

Class of 2023
Hieke Allen IV
Jan Bedol
Lynn Evans
David Hughes
Lee Smith
Kris Taylor
Elizabeth Webb
Alice Wichmann

Class of 2024
Lacy Bedol
Gerry Boudreau
Lee Danielson
Joe DeLisle
Anne Fayssoux
Jim Hudgins
Barbara Morris
Amy Pelissero

Trustees
Dené Dixon (2022)
Clark Candler (2023)
Bill Turnipseed (2024)

Youth Elder
Josie Harris (through May, 2023)



Scan this code with your smart phone to give on line!

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