



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Wake, Awake! A Voice is Calling

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 11)

Leader: A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

People: **The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,**

Leader: The spirit of counsel and might,

People: **The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

Leader: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

People: **He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;**

Leader: But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

People: **They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; says the Lord,**

All: **For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.**

*HYMN 82:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, you have given us the Word of life, the light that shines even in the bleakest night. But all too often, we do not listen to the Word. We are seduced by the voices around us: loud voices that shout and social media messages that tempt about money and power, about status and fame. We get lured away from your light and turn toward the shadowy corners of the world where we become lost and alienated from joy. Because we have stopped listening, we have been slow to speak of your Word to others, even those whom we love...

(personal prayers of confession)

Forgive us, O God. Turn us away from the flashing lights of fleeting diversions, and lead us into the everlasting light of your grace and hope. Then lead us to live and speak your Word with joy; through Jesus Christ, whom the darkness shall never overcome, 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: Jan Bedol, Catherine Carter, and Lori McMahan

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT: LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

Dan & Linda Shelles

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 1:1-18

(pew Bible, page 91, NT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living

SERMON

“Go Tell: Break the Good News”

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

Nicole Jiskoot

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.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

Rev. Wilmesherr

*(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

The Prophecy of Zechariah

Kenneth Lowenberg

Now the time came, and Elizabeth bore a son, and he was named John. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke this prophecy: “And you child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, To give knowledge of salvation to his people for the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

[Luke 1:57;67;76-80]

**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!*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Dr. Speed

Harriette Eugenia MacBean

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Fletcher

Responding with 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.

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. Fletcher and Rev. Wilmesherr

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.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nicole Jiskoot

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Genevan 42

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Deep Peace
Chancel Choir

Ron Alexander/John Bell

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]*

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

† † †

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

Dr. and Mrs. David E. Wilkinson and Mr. and Mrs. Milton C. Scott

by Patsy and David Wilkinson and family

† † †

All Hands on Deck "Empowered to Serve" Highlight

Thanks be to God! For **Ron Warren!** He has led the Chancel Choir and other volunteers decorating the sanctuary for Advent many years. In addition to serving as choir president, he has served as an elder, participated in supervised ministries, is on the Furnishings and Flower guilds.

"What stands out for me at DPC is the sense of family," Ron says. "One of my favorite memories is the day Joe and I got married and the love and support we received from our church family, with Matt playing beautiful music, and the choir lending their heavenly voices. I am filled with eternal gratitude that DPC has been such an integral part of my life and faith journey for so many years."

Christmas Decorations & Music Fund

If you would like to contribute to a fund that will be used to beautify the Sanctuary and church and provide special Christmas Music, please donate and complete the form online by scanning this QR Code.



All gifts received by December 11 will be acknowledged in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18.

+ + +

Deacons' Fund Offering

On communion Sundays we collect 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.

+ + +

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 church to give to your gift honoree.

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 4–2nd Sunday of Advent; New Member/Visitor Gathering after worship

December 7–Decorate the Fellowship Hall Tree during Wednesday Dinner

December 8–Women's Ministry Thursday Night Group, 6:30-8:30 pm, dinner and lesson

December 10–Decatur Presbyterian Children's Community Breakfast with Santa in the Keith Parlor, 9 am to noon

December 11–Women's Ministry Sunday Group, meet in the Parlor after worship to walk to Twain's for lunch

December 13–Women's Ministry Tuesday Morning Group, 10am to 12 pm, lesson and lunch

December 14–Great DPC Cookie Swap during Wednesday Dinner—bring 2 or 3 dozen cookies to swap!

December 21–Longest Night Service at 5:30 pm in Scott Chapel, Dinner at 6:15 pm

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)

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

"Follow Me' Advent Theme is "Go Tell"

December 4 Todd Speed

"Break the Good News"

Luke 1:1–25, 57–80; John 1:1–18

December 11 Todd Speed

"Join the Chorus"

Isaiah 58:6–9a; Acts 8:26–39

December 18 Todd Speed

"Tell of the Hope Within You"

Jeremiah 32:1–44; Luke 2:8–20



Scan this code with your smart phone to give online!



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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