



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

CHORAL INTROIT

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
Chancel Choir

Tennessee Harmony

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin. Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within: Seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem! Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him. Christ, eternal Sun of Justice, Christ, the Rose of Wisdom's seed, Come to bless with fire and fragrance, hours of yearning, hurt, and need. In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view. Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.
[text: Mary Louise Bringle]

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 52)

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

People: Break forth together into singing, for the Lord has comforted the people.

Leader: Break forth into song, for the Lord has redeemed Jerusalem.

People: The Lord has done great things; all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

CALL TO CONFESSION

Nicole Jiskoot

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009)

God of mercy, we gather to worship you and to celebrate the Advent of Jesus Christ, but we confess the many ways that our community and nation have obscured his message, for we are a divided people. Our nationality, political preferences, ethnic origin, economic status, gender, age, and even musical preferences all too often obscure our common humanity. Forgive us for our tendency toward separation and division, and remind us that we and all our neighbors are your beloved children...

(Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession.)

By the power of your Holy Spirit, may our common identity as your children bind us together as one as we joyfully share good news with our neighbors, for the sake of the One who came that all may have life and have it abundantly, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM

While We are Waiting, Come
Covenant Choir

Don Cason

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come. With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

[text: Claire Cloninger]

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: Sarah Collier, Jason Craw, and Lori McMahan

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT: LIGHTING OF THE JOY CANDLE

George, George, and Bernice Christy

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:6-9a
(pew Bible, page 688, OT)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed
Acts 8:26-39
(pew Bible, page 127, NT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living

"Go Tell: Join the Chorus"

SERMON

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

Rev. Fletcher

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

Rev. Wilmesherr

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

Rev. Fletcher

*(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

Elizabeth Webb

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

Rev. Fletcher

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain

Carolyn Jennings

Chancel Choir

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, Joyous tidings proclaim to the world, Lift up your voice, Shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in his arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you. He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea. From time eternal He was God, the Alpha and Omega, He. Behold, your Lord! He will come in power and glory, He will rule with mercy and truth. Hope of the nations, Light of the world. He will love the little children, He will hold them in his arms. Love Him and trust Him as a child, Behold, your Lord comes to you.

[adapted from Isaiah 40]

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 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Improvisation on a Gregorian Chant
(Behold, the Lord Will Come)*

Herbert Colvin

† † †

Music

Matthew McMahan, *Organist & Choirmaster*; Lori McMahan, *Director of Children’s Music Ministry*
Chancel Choir

† † †

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of our beloved wife and mother

Barbara Reich

Bob & Rob

† † †

All Hands on Deck “Empowered to Serve” Highlight

Thanks be to God! for **Scott Overcarsh!** This generous and talented woodworker tackles projects around the church as needed, including the beautiful cabinet in the narthex that solves storage issues, the live stream booth and spacious communion table. Scott also serves on the Threshold Steering Committee, and says he and Jody moved into Decatur to be closer to these ministries “that speak to our heart.” He attends the Wednesday Morning Bible Study group on Wednesday mornings, enjoys Vernon Gramling’s weekly blogs related to the sermon scripture, and “the spiritual nourishment provided through worship services.”

† † †

Christmas Decorations & Music Fund

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



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

Donation given in (*please check one*): Honor Memory



Name of person honored/remembered
by

Donor Name

OR—I would simply like to donate to the Christmas Decorations & Music Fund **with no dedication**:

Donor Name

† † †

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

December 11–Club 345 Christmas Party, 3:00 to 5:00 pm, email ewilmesherr for more details

December 11–Youth Christmas Party at Sycamore House, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

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

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)

December 26 & 27–DPC Church Office Closed

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 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



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

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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Scan this code
with your smart
phone to give
online!

