



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed

March 12, 2023

3rd Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103)

Leader: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: **The LORD will not always accuse, nor will God keep anger forever.**

Leader: The LORD does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

People: **For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love towards those who fear the LORD;**

Leader: As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us.

People: **As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

*HYMN 766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

Mc Kee

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous God, your steadfast love has saved us. Your mercies are new every morning, but all too often, we forget the depth and breadth of your mercy. When our lives are going well, we somehow believe that things are working out because of who we are, or because of our cleverness, or our hard work. We may even persuade ourselves that the struggles of others are because they are undeserving, or lazy, or unfortunate. Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us clear vision to see that your undying mercy and generosity are meant for all, and that we can find grounded ways to be merciful toward others, just as you have been merciful toward us...

(silent prayers of confession)

By the power of your Holy Spirit, transform our lives by your grace, so that we live the love we speak, acting with compassion and mercy towards all, in the name of the One who came not to be served but to serve: Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO PARDON

Gloria Patri

John Weaver

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen, Amen, Amen.

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.

If you need assistance finding this space, please ask an usher.

Today's Children's Chapel Leaders: Kathryn & Nick Hecker and Lori McMahan

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT

Lucia Sizemore

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

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

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Speed

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 23:32-43
(pew Bible, page 89, NT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living

“Love God, Neighbor, Enemy – Show Mercy”

SERMON

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Book of Confessions, PC(USA), 2004)

Rev. Wilmesherr

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all people. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Nicole Jiskoot

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. 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.)*

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arranged, James Mulholland

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above; Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love! Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I'm come; And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood. O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee: Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above! *[Robert Robinson]*

*DOXOLOGY 708 (stanza 1)

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Schumann

**We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

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

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

Love Unknown

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

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

Betty Allen

on our 70th anniversary

by

Hikie Allen III

† † †

Staff Birthdays and Anniversaries in March

Congratulations to **Linda Huffine** on her 2 year anniversary as our Threshold Ministry Assistant. We also celebrate the birthdays of **RG Evans** on March 8 and **Leslie Raymer** on March 9. (We missed our intern **Nicole Jiskoot's** birthday on February 28—happy belated!)

† † †

Mix & Mingle Inter-Generational Event Today!

Join DPC Intern Nicole Jiskoot in the Fellowship Hall this afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 pm to play, eat, and serve! There will be tables with different games, snacks and finger foods to enjoy while you fellowship, and a service project of assembling hygiene kits for our guests at Threshold Ministry. As part of our service project, we will be collecting donations at the sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall as you arrive. While not required for participation in this event, all donations of sweet and/or salty non-perishable and individually sealed snack items, as well as bottled water, will be welcomed and much appreciated. See you there!

† † †

Ordination & Baby Shower for the Wilmesherrs

The DPC family is invited to the Ordination Service of Drew Wilmesherr on **Saturday, March 25**, at 11:00 am in the sanctuary.

Our church family also has the joy of celebrating with Emily, Drew and Evie Wilmesherr their new baby daughter expected in mid May. We are hosting a luncheon and baby shower for our associate pastor on **Sunday, March 26**, immediately following the worship service. Families, individuals and all ages are invited to join us in Keith Parlor and the parlor classroom.

What you need to know:

- A lunch of chicken tenders, turkey roll ups and a variety of salads will be served buffet style in the session room.
- Dining tables will be set up in the parlor and parlor classroom.
- The meal is complementary, and church members will be providing most of the food.
- We'll enjoy a celebratory cake for dessert while "big sister" Evie opens a few gifts for her mom and dad.
- Other gifts will be opened and displayed by volunteers in the classroom. *Greeting cards and gift cards for the family will be collected in a basket to be opened later.
- An activity table will be set up to entertain our youngest guests.

Please let us know you plan to attend so we can ensure enough food is prepared. Use this link to a Google form by Thursday, March 23, with the number of adults and children in your party:

<https://forms.gle/QSjye4NzNkqkdKU89>

Emily has registered their wish list at the QR Code to the right. The family especially appreciates the flexibility of gift cards to Amazon or Target One major goal is to purchase a comfortable chair for the nursery.



Can't attend, but still want to participate? Cards and gifts may be mailed or brought to the church to the attention of Rev. Emily Wilmesherr, Decatur Presbyterian Church, 205 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030.

Rev. Tully Fletcher on Israel Pilgrimage

Rev. Tully Fletcher is away this week on a pilgrimage to Israel along with elder Joe and Reynolds DeLisle and a group of 20 pastors from various denominations. Prayers for safe travel and a wonderful experience for all.

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)

- March 12–Women's Ministry**, meet in th Parlor following worship to walk to lunch at Twain's
- March 12–Spring Mix & Mingle** inter-generational event, 4 to 6 pm in Fellowship Hall
- March 14–Women's Ministry Day Circle**, 10 am, Parlor Classroom and Parlor, lesson and lunch
- March 16-18–'Just Creation' Conference at Columbia Theological Seminary**, visit ctsnet.edu to register
- March 18–SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) Trip to Gibbs Gardens** in Ball Ground, GA. Bus leaves at 10 am from DPC parking lot, lunch at Arbor Café before touring garden. Tickets are \$18 for seniors (plus lunch), return to Decatur around 5 pm.
- March 19–Spring Milestone Workshop** for 4th graders on Worship
- March 25–Ordination Service for Drew Wilmesherr**, DPC sanctuary
- March 26–Wilmesherr Baby Shower** after worship in the Parlor (DPC family is invited–not just the ladies!)
- April 2–Palm Sunday**, palm processional and communion
- April 6–Maundy Thursday Service** with communion at 5:30 pm, dinner on lawn at 6:15 pm (weather permitting)
- April 7–Good Friday Tenebrae Service (A Service of Darkness)** at 8:00 pm
- April 9–Easter Sunday**, enjoy cookies & decorate the cross on the lawn at 9 am, worship at 10:30 am
- April 27–SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) trip to explore the Illuminarium**, one of Atlanta's newest multi-sensory experiences
- April 30–Festival of Praise–All choirs Sing** during worship; **Youth BBQ Competition & Fund Raiser**, after worship
- June 5-9–Bible & Music Camp**, registration is now open! Visit <https://decatur-presbyterian-church.square.site/bam>

March 19 Emily Wilmesherr
Mach 26 Todd Speed
April 2 Tully Fletcher
April 9 Todd Speed

"Follow Me" Lenten Theme 'Love God, Neighbor, Enemy'

"Wash Another's Feet" John 13:1–20
"Be Courageous" Acts 6:8–7:2, 51–60
"Live Peaceably" Romans 12:9–21 (Palm Sunday)
Easter Sunday



Actively Engaged in the World

A Bold Vision and Invitation:

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

Scan this code with your smart phone to give online!



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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