



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed

March 26, 2023

5th Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

VOLUNTARY

Badinerie (from Suite for Flute)
Lollie Newsome, flute

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

CHORAL INTROIT

Ubi Caritas
Lori McMahan and Covenant Choir
Live in charity and steadfast love. Live in charity; God will dwell with you
Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.
[Latin, 8th century; English translation from Taize' community, 1991]

Jacques Berthier

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Fletcher

Leader: We gather in the name of Jesus Christ to find strength and courage in our worship as we proclaim that Jesus is Lord of all.

People: **Jesus was Lord at the beginning!**

Leader: We worship Jesus this day in song and silence, in praise and proclamation, in word and work,

People: **For we proclaim that Jesus is Lord even now!**

Leader: When we go from this place, we will be bold to do the work to which we are called; we will live as fearless disciples who love the world and its people,

People: **For we know that Jesus will be Lord at the end of all things!**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: **The Lord's name be praised!**

***HYMN 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have assured us that through your Spirit you are with us always, even to the ends of the earth, yet we confess that we are timid. When called to act on behalf of the most vulnerable, we hold back, worried for our own security or concerned about what others might think. When we could speak up for those who are being treated unfairly, we tend to be cautious and fearful, not wanting to get overly involved...
(silent prayers of confession)

Forgive us, O God. By the power of your Spirit, lead us to courageous actions that truly help those in need and empower us to speak brave words that inspire loving kindness towards all, so that we may serve as co-workers with Jesus Christ and all who seek to follow him; 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.

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

Today's Children's Chapel Leaders: Jan Bedol, Kris Taylor, and Lori McMahan

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT

Rev. Fletcher

Leader: We now go our separate ways.
Adults: **May God be with you there.**
Children: **May God be with you here.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 6 and 7 (*selected verses*)
(*pew Bible, page 123, NT*)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living
“Love God, Neighbor, Enemy – Be Courageous”

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

Nicole Jiskoot

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *‘This Child Here’ Ministry in Ukraine*

Dr. Robert Gamble

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.)*

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Still, Still With Thee
Chancel Choir

Fred Gramann

Lollie Newsome, *flute*; Kate Larrabee, *mezzo soprano*

Still, still with thee, when purple morning breaketh, When the bird waketh and the shadows flee; Fairer than morning, lovelier than daylight, Dawns the sweet consciousness: I am with thee. Alone with thee, amid the mystic shadows, The solemn hush of nature newly born; Alone with thee in breathless adoration, In the calm dew and freshness of the morn. Still, still with thee! As to each newborn morning A fresh and solemn splendor still is giv’n, This blessed consciousness, awaking, Breath each day nearness unto thee and heav’n. So shall it be at last in that bright morning, When the soul waketh and life’s shadows flee; O in that hour, fairer than daylight dawning, Shall rise the glorious thought: I am with thee. [*Harriet Beecher Stowe*]

*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 725

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Nyland

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in C

J. S. Bach

† † †

Music

Matthew McMahan, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Lori McMahan, *Director of Children's Music Ministry*
Chancel Choir
Covenant Choir
Lollie Newsome, *flute*
Kate Larrabee, *mezzo soprano*

† † †

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
with admiration and in loving memory of my parents,
Betty Pope Scott Noble and Rev. Dr. J. Phillips Noble
and my brother,
Milton Scott Noble
by Betty Scott Noble
and were also used in the celebration yesterday of the
Ordination of Drew Wilmeherr

† † †

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!)

† † †

Celebrate with the Wilmesherrs: Baby Shower Today!

Join Emily, Drew and their daughter Evie for a baby shower to celebrate the anticipated May birth of baby Juliette after the worship service today. A complementary lunch will be served in Keith Parlor, to include a variety of salads and a make-your-own sandwich bar. This will be followed by cake and the presentation of a special gift. Evie will help open a few items, but volunteers will open and display most gifts in the interest of time. Couples, singles, all age are invited.

Emily has registered their wish list at the QR code on the right. They especially appreciate 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 show your support? Cards and gifts can be dropped off at the church or mailed to Rev. Emily Wilmesherr, Decatur Presbyterian Church, 205 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030.



† † †

Has the Chancel Choir Got a Deal for You!!

Today, and for the next few weeks, look for the Flower Cart display to purchase **12 Months of Flowers for only \$40!** With the Flower Gift Card, you can go to Hall's Garden Center (on Memorial Drive in Stone Mountain) and get a bouquet of flowers each month for a whole year! You'll make someone very happy, and help the Chancel Choir raise money for their (eventual) trip to perform in Carnegie Hall, which was cancelled in 2020.



Thank You!

On behalf of the ministry staff and Steering Committee of Threshold Ministry, we would like to thank the congregation for packing 200+ hygiene kits for our Threshold Ministry guests at the Intergenerational event held on March 12. We appreciate Nicole Jiskoot's leadership, planning and organization for this event. Contributing to cleanliness and hygiene allows our guests to maintain health, supports relationships & job security, and enables guests to redirect personal income to food. Thank you for supporting this vital outreach to our unhoused neighbors. We are so very grateful for your ongoing support of our ministry.

Threshold Ministry Staff and Steering Committee

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

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 9:30 am, worship at 10:30 am

April 11–Women's Ministry Day Circle, 10 am in Parlor Classroom, lesson and lunch

April 13–Women's Ministry Night Circle, 6:30 pm in the Parlor, dinner and lesson

April 16–Pre-K Milestone Workshop, after worship, light lunch for pre-ks and their families, RSVP by April 12

April 23–Global Village Project "Tribute to Education" at DeKalb Conference Center

April 27–SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) trip to see the "Safari" exhibit at the Illuminarium in midtown Atlanta, followed by lunch.

April 30–Festival of Praise–All choirs Sing during worship

April 30–Youth BBQ Competition & Fund Raiser, after worship

June 5-9–Bible & Music Camp, registration is now open! Visit <https://deatur-presbyterian-church.square.site/bam>

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

April 2	Tully Fletcher	<i>"Live Peaceably"</i>	Romans 12:9–21 (Palm Sunday)
April 9	Todd Speed	Easter Sunday	

"Follow Me" Lenten Theme 'Pray'

April 16	Todd Speed	<i>"Pray Honestly"</i>	Matthew 6:9–13
April 23	Todd Speed	<i>"Pray Persistently and Humbly"</i>	Luke 18:1–14
April 30	Todd Speed	<i>"Pray With and For Others"</i>	James 5:13–16
May 7	Tully Fletcher	<i>"Pray with Your Whole Self"</i>	Psalms 63:1–4; 88:13–18; 139:15–16



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
205 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030 / www.dpchurch.org / 404-378-1777