



## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

### ***Easter isn't just a Sunday — it's a season.***

*One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a “week of weeks”), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord. The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Hyfrydol*

*arranged by Paul Manz*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 31)*

Leader: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

People: **Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

Leader: I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have taken heed of my adversities.

People: **You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me.**

Leader: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

People: **Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

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

*\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 245*

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

*Llanfair*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Nicole Jiskoot

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (edited from John Birch, www.faithandworship.com)*

**Saving God, we are your people yet the world cannot see this. We are your children, yet we fail to live in peace. We are your voices, yet we often choose to be silent. We are your hands and feet, yet we stray from your paths. We have ignored your love, brushed aside your guiding hand, and trusted in our own wisdom.**  
*(silent prayers of confession)*

**Forgive us, O Lord. By the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to worship you in spirit and in truth as we bring to you joyful songs in the everyday moments of our lives and as we seek to live in a manner that glorifies your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE*

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*(Please turn to your neighbor, introduce yourself, and pass the peace of Christ.)*

*\*RESPONSE TO PARDON HYMN 828*

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

*More Love to Thee*

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Children are invited forward. Following the Inter-generational Moment, children ages 4 to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

### CORPORATE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Prepare us, holy God, to hear your Word through the Scriptures of this day. Confront us with your claims on our lives. Clarify the choices we must make if our lives are to have meaning and purpose. Help us to respond to the One who came as the bread of life so we may know life at its fullest and best. Amen.**

### BLESSING OF PARTING

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

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

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

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

Dr. Speed

Luke 18:1-14

*(pew Bible, page 81, NT)*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living

*"Pray—Pray Persistently and Humbly"*

### SERMON

Dr. Speed

*Breath Prayer: Jesus Christ...Son of God...have mercy on me...a sinner.*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF EASTER FAITH

Rev. Fletcher

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast; that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the disciples, and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.**

**He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**

**He is our Lord and our God.**

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

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Nicole Jiskoot

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

*(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

Rev. Fletcher

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*  
Chancel Choir

*Dale Wood*

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the Head and Cornerstone; Chosen of the Lord, and precious, Binding all the Church in one; Holy Zion's help forever, And her confidence alone. To this temple where we call Thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, today; With Thy wonted loving-kindness Hear Thy servants as they pray, And Thy fullest benediction Shed within its walls always. Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son, Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One: One in might, and One in glory, While unending ages run. *[7<sup>th</sup> c. Latin hymn, translated by John Mason Neale]*

\*EASTER DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns Erfreuen

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;**

*Alleluia, Alleluia!*

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

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

## FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*CLOSING HYMN 246

*Christ Is Alive!*

Truro

\*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Fanfare*

*Jacques Lemmens*

† † †

### Music

Matthew McMahan, *Organist & Choirmaster*; Chancel Choir

† † †

### Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of

*Crawford Monroe Kennedy, Jr. and Harvie Rex Vaughan*

by Leah, Jeff, Sally and Jake Vaughan

† † †

### Mother's Day Gift Idea! 12 Months of Flowers for Only \$40!

The Chancel Choir is selling Flower Cards to Hall's Garden Shop, entitling the bearer to pick up a bouquet of flowers every month for a whole year at their shop in Stone Mountain.

The purchase of a Flower Card helps the Choir raise funds for their future performance at Carnegie Hall, NYC.

Thank you for your support! The cards will only be sold for a few more weeks.

† † †

### Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2023 is Invest In Our Planet.

† † †

### Tully Fletcher Shares about Holy Land Experience

Recently Pastor Tully was blessed to travel to Israel and tour the Holy Land where Jesus lived, and where most of the Bible took place. He will be sharing and teaching about his experiences there, and how one's understanding of the scriptures deepens by visiting this amazing land. There are three opportunities for you to attend and learn.

**Wednesday Night, May 3, at 5:15pm** will be an intergenerational event (with the first 15 to 20 minutes geared for all ages, and the rest geared for adults. And a 2 part series on **Sunday Mornings, May 7 & 14, at 9:15am**, which will be a combination of the adult Sunday School Classes (Fellowship, Cornerstone, & Crusader). All events will take place in the Parlor Classroom.

† † †

### Film Screening of "At the River: Struggle & Grace in the Segregated South"

DPC will host a special film screening on **Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30pm** - *At the River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South*. Filmmaker Carolyn Crowder, raised in Montgomery, Alabama, during the Civil Rights era, traveled throughout the Southeast interviewing ministers, **including Rev. Dr. Phil Noble**, now in their 80's and 90's, about their experiences and what it took to go against the racist currents during those hard days within their local communities and congregations, and discovered why they dared to do so. The film screening will be followed by a Q&A time with several featured ministers.

† † †

**Last Chance to Sign Up for A Break Bread Group!**



Refer to the card in the hymnal pew pocket for more information.

† † †

### Darnell Music Scholarship



Applications for the 2023 scholarship are being accepted and should be submitted to the church office by April 30. Scholarships from this fund are restricted to college level music students who have either been accepted to a school of music at an accredited college or university or have an active application on file. Priority is given to applicants who are members of DPC, their children and grandchildren and then to members of the Decatur community at large. Applications are available by contacting the church office.

† † †

### SAM Trip to Illuminarium on April 27

Join the Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) for a tour of Illuminarium Experience “Wild: A Safari Experience” on Thursday, April 27. You will come face-to-face with the world’s most exotic animals in their natural habitats in this unique cinematic experience. Meet in the church parking lot at 10 am to carpool to midtown Atlanta for an 11 am tour and then enjoy lunch at New Realm Brewing Company, returning to DPC around 2 pm. The cost is \$30 (seniors, group rate) and we must purchase tickets a week ahead, so if you cancel, you would still need to pay for your ticket. Deadline to RSVP is Monday, April 24. RSVP to the church office or by church emails.

### **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)

**April 23–Global Village Project “Tribute to Education”** at DeKalb Conference Center

**April 27–SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) trip to see the “Wild: A Safari Experience” exhibit at the Illuminarium** in midtown Atlanta, followed by lunch at New Realm Brewing Company.

**April 27–BAM Camp Training**, 7 to 8:30 pm, Parlor Classroom

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

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

**May 3–DPCC Auction**, 6:30 – 9:30 pm at Wild Heaven Brewery; Tickets are available through the pre-school, \$40 each (\$8 couples) and include a taco dinner and drinks. Support Decatur Presbyterian Children’s Community at a ‘fun’draiser!

**May 4–DPC Hosts Jason Reynolds Conversation & Book Signing**; presented by Little Shop of Stories for Jason’s new book *Suspended*, in the DPC sanctuary at 7:00 pm

**May 10–BINGO Night at Wednesday Dinner**; 5:15 to 6:15 pm in Fellowship Hall, dinner at 6:15 pm

**May 11–DCM’s Sip & Savor Fundraiser**, 6:30 pm at 716 W. Trinity Place, proceeds benefit Decatur Cooperative Ministry

**May 16–Film Screening of ‘At the River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South’**, 6:30 pm

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

### “Follow Me” Theme ‘Pray’–Upcoming Sermon Texts

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

### “Follow Me” Theme ‘Do Justice’–Upcoming Sermon Texts

May 14	Todd Speed	<i>“Recognize Injustice”</i>	John 7:53–8:11
May 21	Todd Speed	<i>“Check Your Prejudice”</i>	James 2:1–7



*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](http://www.dpchurch.org) / 404-378-1777