



May 21, 2023

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

## 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

Chant Donné

Maurice Duruflé

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Micah 6:8 and Amos 5:24*)

Leader: Children of God, welcome to this place of love and grace!

**People: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance!**

Leader: The LORD has told us mortals what is good; and what does the LORD require of us in this place?

**People: To seek justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

Leader: We gather in this place to remind each other to *Check our Prejudices* and to analyze our own hearts.

**People: For God invites all peoples to be part of the beloved community.**

Leader: As the prophet declared long ago: Let justice roll down like waters,

**People: And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Leader: We are welcome, just as we are. Praise the Lord!

**People: We are loved, just as we are. The Lord's name be praised!**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 317

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

McKee

CALL TO CONFESSION

Nicole Jiskoot

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Our hearts can be hard, O God—soften them with your love. Our hands are sometimes clenched, O God—open them with your grace. Our eyes can be shut to our neighbors, O God—help us to see the truth of the world. Our minds are often set in stone, O God—enable us to think more deeply. Our souls yearn always for you, O God— may we know your presence and your peace. 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 769 *For Everyone Born* (stanzas 3 & 5)

*For Everyone Born*

**For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong,**

**Refrain: and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

**For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, Refrain**

## 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: Jan Bedol, Kris Taylor, and Lori McMahan

*INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT: Letter of James*

Dr. Speed

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. Vernon Gramling

*NEW TESTAMENT READING*

James 2:1-7

*(pew Bible, page 229, NT)*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Follow Me: Biblical Practices For Faithful Living**

*SERMON*

*"Do Justice: Check Your Prejudice"*

Rev. Gramling

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*\*AFFIRMATION OF EASTER FAITH*

Nicole Jiskoot

**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*

Rev. Gramling

**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*

Nicole Jiskoot

*(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*

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

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM*

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*Paul T. Langston*

*Chancel Choir*

God of grace, and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power; Crown Thine ancient church's story; Bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour! Lo, the hosts of evil 'round us scorn Thy Christ, assail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us, Free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days! Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives, that they may be armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set men free. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not man nor thee! Amen.

*\*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*

# FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*CLOSING HYMN 754

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

*Baronita*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Gramling

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Lord, Lead Us With Your Gentle Hand*  
Chancel Choir

*Thomas Holcombe*

Lord, lead us with your gentle hand, and grant us your love and peace. *Amen.*

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

*Paul Manz*

† † †

## 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  
*Candler A. (Pat) Murphey, Jr.*  
by his family

† † †

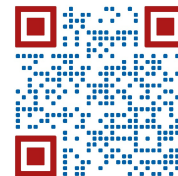
## Help Plan DPC's Bicentennial Celebration—Initial Meeting Today!

In 2025, we celebrate the Bicentennial anniversary of our congregation. Join the planning team! The initial gathering is **today, May 21**, after worship in the Parlor Classroom. All interested parties are welcome!

† † †

## Nominations for Elders/Trustee to Serve in the Class of 2026

The Nominations Ministry of DPC needs your help! Please submit names of members of the congregation you would like to have serve as Elders or Trustees in the Class of 2026, and youth members to serve as Youth Elder through May, 2025. Forms are available at the Reception Desk at the church and an electronic form is available on our website or by scanning the QR Code. Nominations will be taken through June 4. Thank you!



† † †

## Threshold Ministry Needs

DPC's Threshold Ministry currently needs small/travel size deodorants for the kits assembled for our Threshold clients.

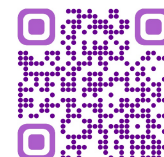
† † †

**Rev. Tully Fletcher** is away this weekend officiating a wedding in upstate New York.

† † †

## Wilmesherr Meal Train

The Wilmesherr family welcomed Juliette Shea Wilmesherr on April 22! There is a meal train set up where you can sign up to bring them a meal beginning in May. This will be very helpful to Emily and Drew as they adjust to being a family of four. Just scan the QR Code to the right to sign up!



† † †

## Break Bread Groups Have Been Formed

Break Bread groups have been organized—if you haven't been contacted, please contact the church office.

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

### 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](mailto:dhowell@dpchurch.org))

**May 21—Initial Meeting of the Planning Team for DPC Bicentennial Celebration in 2025** after worship in the Parlor Classroom—all interested parties are welcome!

**May 24—Last Day of School for Global Village Project**

**May 26—Last Day of School for Decatur Presbyterian Children's Community**

**May 28—Pentecost Sunday—Wear Red to Church!** Worship and Communion at 10:30 am.

**June 4—Todd Speed leading Worship with Communion at Wesley Woods Towers Chapel 7:00 pm**

**June 5-9—Bible & Music Camp;** Still spaces available! Visit <https://decaturn-presbyterian-church.square.site/bam>

**June 11-17—High School Youth Montreat Conference**

**June 18—Father's Day Ice Cream after Worship** in the Terrace Garden

**June 25-30--CROSS Mission Trip** for middle school youth

**July 8-15—Youth & Adult Honduras Mission Trip**

**July 19-23—Montreat Middle School Conference**

### "Follow Me" Theme 'Do Justice'—Upcoming Sermon Texts

May 28	Todd Speed	<i>"Speak Up" (Pentecost &amp; Communion)</i>	John 2:13-16
June 4	Tully Fletcher	<i>"Do the Work"</i>	Isaiah 58:1-12



### A Bold Vision and Invitation:

- **Building Congregational Vitality** by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.
- **Dismantling Structural Racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating Systemic Poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



## DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

205 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030 / [www.dpchurch.org](http://www.dpchurch.org) / 404-378-1777

Scan this code  
with your  
smart phone  
to give online!

