

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

World Communion Sunday/Children's Sabbath

October 1, 2017

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Children and youth bring special gifts and grow in their faith through their regular participation in worship. Those who plan and lead worship should provide for their full participation in the Service for the Lord's Day.

– The Book of Order, W-2.0201

OPENING VOLUNTARY La fille aux cheveux de lin Claude Debussy
Dan Monaco, pianist

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

P: "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. (Zechariah 8:5)

L: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

P: "[The nations] shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Micah 4:3b)

L: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

P: "I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them." (Amos 9:14a)

L: Do you have a vision of God's peace?

P: "See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company they shall return here." (Jeremiah 31:8)

L: Have you glimpsed God's vision?

P: "I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime." (Isaiah 65:19-20a)

L: Do you have a vision?

P: Yes, we have a vision!

Let us gather now to seek God's vision for the children of our world,
and God's guidance as we work to pursue it.

*HYMN #487 "These Treasured Children"

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Matthew 18:4

Jesus said, "Those who humble themselves like a child will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven." If we enter confession in humility, we'll come out in God's kingdom. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on hymn #487

Oh Abba:

We have failed to always honor our sacred vows.

We have been reluctant to tell your ancient story.

We have distrusted your promises.

We have not always nurtured one another.

Surprise us, tender God, with the wonders of your grace,
so that we might keep our promises,
proclaim the gospel,
trust in you,
and receive each other's love.

Amen.

(time for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

based on Matthew 21:23-25

L: God gave Jesus the authority and power to forgive.

And Jesus used his authority and power to forgive *all* people

for everything and offer us a place in the kingdom of heaven.

P: Yes! We know that and we believe it!

L: Then as reconciled sisters and brothers
and citizens of the kingdom of heaven,
let us exchange signs of friendship and affection.
May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

*GLORIA PATRI #581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

based on Psalm 25

Make your ways known to us;
Lord, teach us your paths.
Lead us into your truth - teach it to us -
because you are the God who saves us.
We put your hope in you all day long.

WORD FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

BLESSING

based on 1 John 4:4, 7

Little children, you are from God...
Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

*(Infants and small children are dismissed to the care of the nursery staff.
Older children are invited to remain and worship.)*

*OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 25:1-9 (antiphonally)

THE MESSAGE, alt.

left side reads **bold**, right side reads *italics*

Our heads are high, God, held high.

We're looking to you, God; No hangdog skulking for us.

We've thrown in our lot with you;

You won't embarrass me, will you?

You won't let our enemies get the best of us?

Don't embarrass any of us who went out on a limb for you.

It's the traitors who should be humiliated.

Show us how you work, God; school us in your ways.

Take us by the hand; Lead us down the path of truth.

You are our Savior, aren't you?

Mark the milestones of your mercy and love, God;

Rebuild the ancient landmarks!

Forget that we sowed wild oats;

mark us with your sign of love.

Plan only the best for us, God!

God is fair and just;

God corrects the misdirected, Sends them in the right direction.

God gives the rejected his hand,

and leads them step-by-step.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 21:23-32 (NT p.23)

L: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. P: Glory to you, O Lord.

SERMON

I Have a Question For You

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #769

"For Everyone Born"

Nina Cardona, Amy Finka, Sara Chang – Song Leaders

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
& THE LORD'S PRAYER (people read bold)**

based on hymn #769

God of justice, joy, compassion and peace,

We pray today for everyone born:

for refugees, the hungry and the homeless ...

for those suffering because power is exercised with cruelty,
or for selfish gain, or to perpetuate injustice ...

for those whose voices are ignored, silenced or discounted;
whose truth is questioned...

for the physically and mentally abused ...

for the victims of those who seek to harm, exclude and ridicule
those not like themselves ...

for those who live in slavery, figuratively and literally ...

for those who live in fear for any reason;

who are not allowed simply to *be* ...

We pray today for all those whose circumstances have moved us to
compassion or sorrow.

[Here you may say aloud your prayers of petition and concern.]

We pray today for every woman, every man, every child
who has ever been denied a place at any table.

And pray for that time when God will delight because we have become
creators of justice, joy, compassion and peace.

All these prayers we offer through Jesus Christ,

who described justice, joy, compassion and peace with this prayer:

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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROUS GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My God Is With Me

words and music by Mark Patterson

My God is with me, with me wherever I go.

My God is with me, I am never alone.

Early in the day and late at night, my Lord walks right by my side.

When I am weak, he makes me strong, my Lord's with me all day long.

I am never alone, my God is with me.

Dan Monaco, pianist

DOXOLOGY #609

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures



high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise



God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it



one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*) based on hymn #769

God of justice, joy, compassion and peace, we ask that you would give us the courage and wisdom to use these offerings to guarantee that everyone has a place at your table. Amen.

We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

A Eucharistic Prayer for Children

A long time ago, longer than you can possibly imagine,
God created everything, everything we can see with our eyes
and everything we can know with our minds
and even things we'll never see or know about.

Here on Earth, God made sure there was enough sunlight and dirt and water
to grow food and enough food to feed people.

In fact, God made it pretty easy for people.
But then people started to take God for granted.
They forgot about God or thought they didn't need God.
Some people became mean and envious and hurtful.

So God made a special deal with Abraham and Sarah - a covenant -
so Abraham and Sarah and their children and grandchildren
and great-grand children and great-great-great-great-grandchildren
could remind other people how wonderful God is.

And then God helped Moses get those people out of dangerous Egypt
and to the Promised Land.

And God made David a great king to keep those Promised Land people safe.

But even some of *those* people forgot about God
or thought they didn't need God.

So God sent prophets to tell remind people how much God loved them
and cared about them and wanted them to be good and fair and honest.

But not everybody paid attention to the prophets and things got worse.

So God decided that the best thing to do was to come in person.

And the best way to do *that* would be to be born like a regular baby.

So that's what God did. And the baby was Jesus and his mother was Mary,
and Joseph, Mary's husband, took very good care of Jesus and his mother.

Jesus grew up and traveled all over the place telling people
how to treat each other with kindness
– even strangers and unlikable people and mean people.

Jesus did amazing things that we call miracles:
he healed people just by touching them;
he made a lot of food out of very little food;
he even brought people back from death.

Jesus stood up to important people when he knew they were wrong
about what God was like, what God wanted
and what God was going to do in the future.

That made some of those important people really, really mad,
so they decided that they would - can you believe it? - kill him.

And they did. They killed Jesus in a very cruel and painful way,
by nailing him to a cross.

But after Jesus died, God stepped in and did something amazing –
God raised Jesus from death.

That proved that all those people who wanted Jesus to die were wrong
and that Jesus was right all along.

And after Jesus visited with his friends he went back to be with God.
But Jesus promised that someday he would come back here
to be with us again, and we're eager for that day to come.

While we're waiting for Jesus, God sends God's Holy Spirit to be with us.
The Holy Spirit is like having God and Jesus all around us all the time,
even inside us.

The Holy Spirit can help us understand things about God better
and can help us be more like Jesus,
which is what God wants for all of us.

The Holy Spirit is right here with us at the communion table.
And because of that this bread and this juice is *more* than bread and juice.
We say that it's the body and blood of Jesus.
That means that when we eat it and drink it,
it's like having some of Jesus inside us.

It's a way for us to remember all that Jesus did and said,
and to say "thank you" to Jesus.

And now, I'm going to say and do the things that every pastor has to say
and do to make communion official.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Christ is host of this table. Everyone, without exception, is welcome. We will receive the Lord's Supper by coming forward and dipping a piece of bread into the cup. Please eat as you are served.

COMMUNION ANTHEM I Will Give Me Heart to the Lord
words and music by Mark Patterson

I will give my heart to the Lord. Every day I'll learn to love him.
I will give my song to the Lord. Every day I'll learn to praise him.
I will give my life to the Lord. Every day I'll learn to serve him.

Dan Monaco, pianist

We Bear God's Word Into the World

*HYMN #630 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: Let all God's people say, P: Alleluia, Amen!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

Children and youth participating in today's worship include:

Dylan Chang – *Call to Worship*

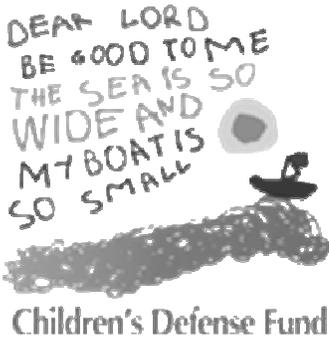
Lili Near – *Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon*

Wilmer Sterling and Eliza Bell – *Old Testament Reading*

Jessica and Edward Cardona – *Prayer of Intercession, Prayers of the People*

Join us every Sunday...

after worship at the coffee pot in the narthex for interesting conversation and light refreshments. A good way to meet the pastor and make new friends at DPC!



The 26th Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Celebration

The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths is being observed today in worship at Downtown Presbyterian Church.

Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, the *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths* Celebration is a way for faith communities, during the month of October, to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine, and provides the opportunity for churches to renew and live out their responsibility to care, protect and advocate for all children.

Each Day in America for All Children

- 2 mothers die from complications of childbirth.
- 4 children are killed by abuse or neglect.
- 6 children or teens commit suicide.
- 7 children or teens are killed by guns
- 21 children or teens die from accidents.
- 41 children or teens are injured with a gun.
- 48 children or teens are injured or killed with a gun.
- 64 babies die before their first birthdays.
- 167 children are arrested for violent crimes.
- 384 children are arrested for drug crimes.
- 690 babies are born to teen mothers.
- 874 babies are born at low birthweight.
- 927 public school students are corporally punished.*
- 1,285 babies are born into extreme poverty.
- 1,526 babies are born without health insurance.
- 1,903 children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 2,570 babies are born into poverty.
- 2,857 high school students drop out.*
- 3,617 children are arrested.
- 4,396 babies are born to unmarried mothers.
- 12,816 public school students are suspended.*

* Based on 180 school days a year.

Parking

Parking for Sunday worship is in the Premier lot at **147 4th Ave. N.**

You must come down 4th from Church Street. Parking in this lot is complimentary from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parking vouchers are necessary to exit the lot without having to pay. To get one, just ask one of our greeters.

Our Ministries Last Week

Saturday Breakfast Ministry

144 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on September 23.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:65, Children:13

Visitors and Tourists

136 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

- 12:30 First Sunday Lunch Meet Up
- 12:30 Outreach Committee Meeting – Parlor 2

Monday, October 2

- 11:30 AA Meeting–Parlor 2

Tuesday, October 3

- 11:30 AA Meeting – Parlor 2
- 12:00 Bible Study – Parlor 1
- 6:00 Finance, Admin. & Personnel and Building and History Meeting – The Cookery

Thursday, October 5

- 11:30 AA Meeting – Parlor 2

Friday, October 6

- 11:30 AA Meeting – Parlor 2

Saturday, October 7

- 8:30 Breakfast served to Nashville's homeless and urban poor

Sunday, October 8

- 9:00 Juveniles Rehearsal
- 9:45 Adult Education – Parlor 2
- 11:00 Worship – the Sanctuary

Our Mission

Gathering in the heart of Nashville, we are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek the welfare of the city as we seek the kingdom of God. We are an historic church working to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation. Together we actively share God's grace and love through worship, education and service, and through being an active voice in promoting justice and peace in our community and the world.

Our Values and Ethos

We believe that every person is a beloved child of God.

Our welcome extends to everyone, whatever your economic circumstances, your faith background, your racial or ethnic identity, your sexual orientation or gender identity, or your political affiliations.

As a diverse community we seek to intentionally embody God's radically inclusive and transformative love for everyone. With love and grace, we are called as a community to grow together as a voice for justice and peace – each as we are, with our unique human stories of joy and struggle.

SESSION 2017

Rev. Mike Wilson, Moderator

Betsy Bahn, Clerk

Jeff Koontz, Treasurer

Class of 2017

Tom Byl
Michael Arwood
Ridley Wills II
Claire Armbruster

Class of 2018

Cary Gibson
Michael Korak

Class of 2019

Chuck Cardona
Jack Henderson
Justin Near

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mike Wilson, Pastor
Reginald Hughes, Office Manager
Suzie Lane, Director of Children's Education

Paulino Jarquin, Facilities Manager
Dr. William Taylor, Director of Music

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Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!

Check us out at: www.dpchurch.com
or scan this QR code

