

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2018

Hearing assistance devices are available.
Please ask a greeter for a receiver.

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Laws and principles are not for the times when there is no temptation: they are for such moments as this, when body and soul rise in mutiny against their rigour ... If at my convenience I might break them, what would be their worth?”

— Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

OPENING VOLUNTARY Prayer, Op. 118, No.4 W.D. Armstrong

WELCOME

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From water to wilderness:

P: **God's covenant continues;**
God's kingdom comes near.

L: On stone and in hearts:

P: **God's covenant continues;**
God's kingdom comes near.

L: From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:
God's covenant continues;
God's kingdom comes near.

L: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

P: **for where Christ is, we would be also.**

*HYMN #165

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Mark 9:3

Jesus shouted, “Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news.”

Our hearts and lives can change only when we acknowledge that they need to. So let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Psalm 25:4; Mark 1:12

God of mercy,

we begin our Lenten journey with confession:

We do not live according to your ways,
but according to our own.

We condone violence,
participate in systems of injustice,
and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others.

Forgive us, we pray,
when we are tempted to follow paths
other than those you set before us.

Teach us your commandments;
help us to turn from evil in its many guises,
and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near.

In covenantal love, remember us, we pray,
and be for us, once more and always,
an ark of safety and new life.

In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE**

based on Psalm 25:5

L: God does not punish us for straying from God’s path.
Rather, God forgives us and teaches us a better way.
Sisters and brothers, know that *you* are forgiven
and be at peace.

P: Thanks be to God!

L: And as God's forgiven people, let us celebrate!
May the peace of Christ be with you.
P: And also with you.

Please return to your seats when the music begins.

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison) based on Genesis 7:11-12; Mark 1:12-15

Gracious God,
in rushing waters and in dry wilderness,
in every season and circumstance,
we need your sustaining word.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
proclaim the good news among us today
so that we may change our hearts and lives
and see anew how the time is fulfilled
and the kingdom has come near;
in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

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 25:1-10 (OT p.502)
L: The Word of the Lord. P: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Mark 1:9-15 (NT p. 34)
L: The gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. P: Glory to you, O Lord.

SERMON

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #618 "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

hymnal page 14

Matthew Abfelter

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

based on Genesis 7:17, Mark 1:10,13, 15:38

Steadfast God,
Thank you for ministering to us through angels seen and unseen
in times that test us.
Thank you for claiming us as a people beloved forever.

Because of your great love and care for us,
we trust you in our brightest joys and deepest needs.

We rejoice when dark clouds of trouble are overtaken
by the light of your presence and new possibilities,
when things settle down after a time of tossing about,
when the great storm is over,
and when the promise of resurrection life takes hold in us
with sure and certain hope.

Hear our prayers, we ask, for the deep needs of the world.
In places of violence and warfare,
give us the courage to lay down our weapons of death
and promote life and well-being instead.
In places of drought and fire,
bring rains that make the earth colorful and verdant again.
In places where the waters overtake their boundaries,
allow the overflowing chaos to recede.

Loving God,
in life and in death, we belong to you.
So in the midst of life, we entrust ourselves to your care.
We are bold to ask for help
when we are confused, lost, or afraid.
We are eager to ask for healing for our bodies and minds,
whether wounded, ill, or recovering.
And we are unceasing in our prayers for those we love
who are far from us physically, emotionally, or spiritually.
Hear us now as we ask for that help, either aloud or in silence.
[Here you may say aloud your individual prayers and petitions.]

In the midst of death and grief,
even though we are weary,
we return again and again, praying for comfort,
for an easing of the pain that comes from loss,
and for the light of your presence to pierce the present darkness.

As the heavens were torn open at Jesus' baptism,
and the curtain in the temple was torn at his crucifixion,
so now tear open anything that divides us from you
or hides your presence in our lives or in the church.
We desire to hear your voice of love,
to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and to see you clearly.
Lead us to serve others faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ,
who invited us to pray:

**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 Into the Woods My Master Went Alex Rowley

Into the woods my Master went, clean forspent,
Into the woods my Master came, forspent with love and shame.
But the olives they were not blind to Him, and the little grey leaves were kind to Him,
The thorn tree had a mind to Him, when into the woods He came.

Out of the woods my Master came and he was well content;
Out of the woods my Master came, content with death and shame.
When death and shame would woo Him last, from under the trees they drew Him last,
'Twas on a tree they slew Him last when out of the woods He came.

– Sidney Lanier

DOXOLOGY #605 “Praise to God the Father”



Praise to God the Fa - ther; praise to God the Son;



praise to God the Spir - it: praise to the Three - in - One.



Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.



Praise to God Al - might - y; praise to the Ho - ly One.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (unison) based on Psalm 25:9

God of steadfast love and faithfulness,
we are humbled as we try to do what is right
and to walk in your ways.

Receive, we ask, these offerings,
and use them for your own good purposes in the church and in all
creation.

We pray in Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts And Bear It Into the World

*HYMN #167

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Join us 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!

Congregational and Corporation Meeting - February 25

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation of The Downtown Presbyterian Church of Nashville to be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Church on Sunday, February 25, 2018 following the 11:00 AM morning worship service for the purpose of (i) receiving the financial report of the Corporation, (ii) electing three (3) Directors to the class of 2020, and (iii) transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. **All members of the church are likewise members of the Church corporation.**

The congregation will meet at the same time and place to: receive the 2018 church budget and 2017 annual report; and transact such other business under the provisions of G-1.0503 of the Book of Order.

And – perhaps most importantly – a delicious lunch will be served!

Side Dishes Needed!

We need side dishes for next Sunday's congregational meeting and lunch. DPC will supply the main course (fried chicken or ham) and beverages. The rest of us will bring our favorite casserole, vegetable dish, salad, dessert, etc.

Just bring your offering to Fellowship Hall before worship.

Sunday School During Lent

Lent is coming and so is Intergenerational Sunday School! All ages are invited to be in Sunday School together February 18 - March 25. Join us in Parlor 1 for breakfast goodies, fellowship and Bible study.

Questions? Contact Suzie.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be featured in our Sanctuary and other spaces.

The Stations – also called The Way of the Cross or Way of Sorrows – will depict fourteen images of Jesus on the day of his crucifixion. Long a feature of Roman Catholic churches, the Stations have becoming increasingly popular with Protestant congregations.

Walking the Stations is a pilgrimage that invites us to contemplate the Passion of Jesus. Our Stations will come from the imaginations several DPC members who are constructing their work based on a passage from one of the four gospels.

The installation will remain in place through Lent.

Children and Worship

Note to Parents of Small Children: The presence of children in worship is a gift to our church. We welcome them, wiggles and all. Families are encouraged to sit together in worship, at least through the children's message. After that, parents may take younger children (5 and under) to our nursery, staffed by loving caregivers. A greeter can direct you to the nursery.

For effective faith development, we value older children (over 5) experiencing the entire worship service. To help, children's bulletins and activities to keep little hands occupied can be found on the table in the narthex.

If you have questions or ideas for children's ministry, please contact Suzie Lane at suzielane@dpchurch.com.

DPC Directory Update

We want to stay in touch with our Members and Friends, so please take a minute to update your contact information for the Church Directory! There is a table in the narthex with our current directory and instructions for providing new information.

If you have any questions please call Dena in the office at 615-254-7584 or email info@dpchurch.com.

Volunteers Needed for Saturday Breakfast

Every Saturday morning DPC opens its doors to Nashville's homeless and urban poor community to provide hot, nutritious meals in a warm, inviting space.

Volunteers from DPC are welcome EVERY Saturday. We want to enlarge our pool of experienced DPC hosts for those Saturdays when other churches and organizations are sending volunteers.

Go here to sign up for any Saturday and to see who else is coming: <https://goo.gl/yQi9wA>

We provide complimentary parking for all volunteers.

If you can volunteer, please respond to dpcbreakfast@gmail.com.

Clothes Closet Help!

We maintain a clothes closet to help our homeless and urban poor guests on Saturday morning. We are in need of many items, including:

- Men's and Women's long sleeve shirts: all sizes
- Men's and Women's sweatshirts: all sizes (hoods preferred)
- Men's and Women's jeans – all sizes
- Men's and Women's underwear—New Only
- Socks for men and women—New Only
- Sample Size Toiletries
- WINTER COATS
- Gloves, hats, and scarves

Perhaps you have some things you haven't worn in a while and can donate. Or maybe you can pick up a few extra items at Target or the drugstore. And remember, your clothing dollars can go a long way at one of Nashville's several Goodwill locations!

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

150 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on February 10.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:70, Children:10

Visitors and Tourists

26 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

1:00 Session - Parlor 2

Monday, February 19

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, February 20

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study – Parlor 1

Wednesday, February 21

Thursday, February 22

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, February 23

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, February 24

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

Sunday, February 25

9:00 Juveniles Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Choir rehearsal

9:45 Christian Education

11:00 Worship – the Sanctuary

12:00 Congregational Meeting

Electronic Giving!

Want an easy way to donate to DPC? Just text "dpchurch" to **73256**. You'll get a link to a secure site that will scan your credit card info. You can even choose what special DPC fund you want to give to. It only takes about a minute!

Thanks for supporting the ministries of Downtown Presbyterian Church!

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 2018

Rev. Mike Wilson, Moderator

Jack Henderson, Clerk

Jeff Koontz, Treasurer

Class of 2018

Cary Gibson
Michael Korak
Jim Dickson

Class of 2019

Chuck Cardona
Jack Henderson
Justin Near

Class of 2020

Dave Coleman
Debra Gentry
Vickie Coffin

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mike Wilson, Pastor
Dena Swoner, 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

