

# THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 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

“The decision to ‘break away’ results from a mixture of confidence and lack of it. The ‘breaker’ is confident to the extent that he suddenly decides the speed has become slower than he can himself sustain to the finish. Hence he can accelerate suddenly and maintain his new speed to the tape. But he also lacks confidence, feeling that unless he makes a move now, everyone else will do so and he will be left standing.”

– Roger Bannister, the first athlete to break the 4-minute mile,  
who died this week at 88

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Ayre

John Ward

WELCOME

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Numbers 21:5; Psalm 107:1, 22; John 3:19

L: In this place, the community of faith  
is reminded of the promise:

P: **God's love endures forever!**

L: In spite of our impatient grumbling,  
despite our attraction to the shadows:

P: **Christ's light shines in us!**

L: When we think our hands our empty,  
when we have no music in our souls:

P: **The Spirit fills us with glad songs.**

Let us worship God: Creator, Christ and Spirit!

\*HYMN #377      “I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light”

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Like all children, we can be impatient, irritated, grumbling, and disobedient, always demanding our way. But God, who is good and kind, gentle and wise, comes to transform us, by grace, into the people we are meant to be. Let us open ourselves to the One who overflows with love for us, as we offer our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)      based on Psalm:12-13; Exodus 20:4-17

The Light of the world has come, Ceaseless Creator,  
but we admit we love the shadows all around us.  
For there, we can boast of our achievements,  
rather than point to your grace;  
there, we can grumble of our unhappiness with you,  
instead of singing your praises;  
there, we can give in to our natural anger,  
and not be touched by your call to be agents of peace and hope.

Forgive us, Eternal Love:  
lead us from the shadows of sin  
into the light of your joy;  
raise us up, as your children,  
so we may kneel in service to others;  
shower us with the grace, the hope, the peace  
you have brought to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(Time for silent confession)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE      based on Mark 8:35-36

L: Let the community of faith say so:  
P: **God's love endures forever!**  
L: Let those gathered in grace say so:  
P: **God's love endures forever!**  
L: Let those gathered from all parts of the world say so:  
P: **God's love endures forever!**

L: This is the good news for us:

**P: God's love endures forever.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

L: And as people gathered in grace,  
let us build up our community with  
signs of reconciliation and friendship.  
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 John 3:21

**God of bright creation, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
open your Word and illuminate our darkened world,  
so that we may see clearly and live faithfully  
by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. 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      Numbers 21:4-9      (OT p.139)

L: The Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING      John 3:14-21      (NT p. 94)

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

SERMON

In this Way

Rev. Mike Wilson

## We Respond to God's Word

\*HYMN #749

“Come, Live in the Light”

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

based on Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 107:17-20

Sisters and brothers,  
confident in God's love and mercy,  
let us pray for the world and for our needs, saying,  
Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you created us in Christ Jesus for good works.  
Help those who profess faith in Christ to do good in the world,  
following the way of life you have prepared  
for those who believe in him.  
For the church of Jesus Christ,  
Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your children walk by your light, doing what is true.  
Yet salvation is not earned by good works,  
but through trust in your grace.  
Dispel from your children arrogance of heart,  
that the world may be drawn to your truth by their humble witness.  
Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

In every age you call forth women and men of integrity  
to lead your people.  
Help pastors and elders and teachers fulfill their calling;  
give them courage to speak the truth in love,  
and shield them from temptation to misuse their authority.  
For pastors, elders and teachers,  
Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, your reign encompasses all the earth,  
though nations may rebel against your justice.  
Help them to live in peace and promote the common good.  
For governments and leaders,  
Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

You hear the cry of the sick and the afflicted.  
Save them from their distress, heal them of their disease,  
and deliver them from the destructive power of suffering.  
For all who sorrow in distress,  
Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, in Jesus Christ you have shown your love for the world.  
Receive our prayers, including the other prayers of our hearts,  
that have not yet been offered, as we pray now, aloud or in silence.  
*[Here you may say aloud your individual prayers and petitions.]*

Merciful God,  
**hear our prayer.**

And hear us now as we pray together these light-infused words:

**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**      O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem      John Ward

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love Thee.  
— Psalm 122:6

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 107:1, 22

Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works among humankind.  
Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives  
and help us to be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love,  
in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

\*HYMN #346 “For the Healing of the Nations”

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!

## **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](mailto:suzielane@dpchurch.com).

## **Sunday School During Lent**

Lent is here 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 are featured in our Sanctuary and other spaces.

The Stations — also called The Way of the Cross or Way of Sorrows — depict fourteen images of Jesus on the day of his crucifixion. Long a feature of Roman Catholic churches, the Stations have become 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 of several DPC members who are constructing their work based on a passage from one of the four gospels.

Throughout Lent, we will also be featuring a blog post for each station, one at a time - those can be found at:

[dpchurch.com/tag/stations-of-the-cross/](http://dpchurch.com/tag/stations-of-the-cross/)

And for further reflection and conversation, follow DPC on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

## **Good Friday Cottage Dinners**

**Everyone Welcome!**

Our DPC tradition is to gather in people's homes on Good Friday for a meal and worship. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and everyone is encouraged to gather with friends old and new to mark Jesus's last day so that we might come together on Easter to truly celebrate Resurrection.

This year Pastor Mike will also host a cottage dinner at the church.

Hosts will provide the main course, guests bring sides and desserts!

This is an annual tradition at DPC for sharing good food, connecting to community and spiritual growth.

Where: DPC Members' homes and DPC

When: Friday, March 30

How & Time: See sign up sheets in DPC Narthex

### **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](mailto:info@dpchurch.com).

### **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!**



## 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 March 3.

#### 11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:54, Children:10

#### Visitors and Tourists

511 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

### Schedule of Weekly Events

#### Today

#### Monday, March 12

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Tuesday, March 13

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study – Parlor 1

6:00 B&H, F&P Meeting–Cookery

#### Wednesday, March 14

#### Thursday, March 15

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Friday, March 16

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Saturday, March 17

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

#### Sunday, March 18

9:00 Juveniles Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Choir rehearsal

9:45 Christian Education

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 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

### THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!*

Check us out at: [www.dpchurch.com](http://www.dpchurch.com)  
or scan this QR code

