

**THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**Twenty-Forth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**September 16, 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**

"Oh, I don't do this to change the country. I do this so the country won't change me."

- activist and pastor Abraham Johannes Muste (1885-1967)  
when asked why he protested the Vietnam War

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**      Prelude on *Canonbury*      Stephen Walters  
Tune taken from Hymn 722  
Edward Cardona, trombone

**WELCOME**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**      based on Hymn #774

**L:** There is now a new creation  
through the grace of Jesus Christ.

**P:** **Call the lost and found together!**  
**Tell the news to everyone!**

**L:** Come and join the celebration;  
come and join this happy feast.

**P:** **There is now a new creation**  
**through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

**\*HYMN #774**      "There is Now a New Creation"

## CALL TO CONFESSION

based on James:2:1

James reminds us that when we show favoritism we deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we have forgotten that, let us confess it now and seek a better way.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) based on Proverbs 22:1, 22-23; James 2:1-17

**God of favor, we have not been true to you.  
You have chosen the poor in the world,  
but we are enmeshed in systems  
of economics, politics and even religion that dishonor them.  
You plead the cause of the afflicted,  
but we participate in policies and attitudes that crush them.  
We have not consistently loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have favored the rich and felt superior to the poor.  
We struggle to respond to the needy with more than words.  
Soften our hearts and make straight our ways.  
Be with us in our struggle to live out our convictions  
and participate more fully in your redeeming work. Amen.**

(Time for silent confession)

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

based on James 2:13

**L:** James speaks plainly when he says,  
“Mercy overrules judgment.”  
It describes how God assesses us  
and how we are called to relate to each other.  
So let us now acknowledge the grace we have been given,  
by extending it to each other.  
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 Proverbs 22:2

Every person is God's creation.  
And God's Word is intended for every person.  
May the Spirit illuminate our hearts and minds  
so that as Scripture is read and proclaimed,  
each of us might hear the Word we need today. 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.)*

FIRST READING

James 2:1-17

(NT p. 229)

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

SECOND READING

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

(OT p. 604)

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

SERMON

Rev. Mike Wilson

## We Respond to God's Word

\*HYMN #763

“The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor”  
*Congregation will sing the refrain and read bold*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

& THE LORD'S PRAYER (people read **bold**)

based on Proverbs 22:1-5,9.23; Mark 7:24-37; James 2:1-17

Let us pray to the God of mercy,  
through our savior, Jesus Christ, saying,  
O Lord, plead our cause.

**Your name is good.**

God our maker,  
you surround your people with favor and goodness.  
You have chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith  
and to inherit your promised kingdom  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who heals the afflicted and sets the oppressed free.

In your mercy, open our mouths in intercession  
on behalf of the church, the creation  
and all those in need.

O Lord, plead our cause.

**Your name is good.**

Open your Church every more fully  
to welcome and honor the poor,  
meeting their needs with faith-filled deeds of love and generosity.  
And may the Church become a stronger advocate  
for the needs and well-being of the poor  
among the rich and powerful.

O Lord, plead our cause.

**Your name is good.**

Uphold the land and those who labor to cultivate it,  
that both crops and people may be sustained by your love  
and overflow with the blessings of your generous provision.

O Lord, plead our cause.

**Your name is good.**

Establish justice for the poor,  
relief for the afflicted,  
and compassionate care for the physically and mentally ill.  
O Lord, plead our cause.  
**Your name is good.**

May we respect the dignity of all who struggle,  
showing your kindness to those in need.  
O Lord, plead our cause.  
**Your name is good.**

May we remember that the impoverished *can* include  
the poor in spirit,  
those who hunger thirst for righteousness,  
those who have been denied equality and dignity;  
every person diminished by racism, misogyny,  
homophobia and transphobia and every other  
way people are robbed of their full humanity.  
O Lord, plead our cause.  
**Your name is good.**

And hear us now as we lift up all those other people or circumstances  
who have moved our hearts and need your attention.  
[*Names may be called forth from the assembly.*]  
O Lord, plead our cause.  
**Your name is good.**

O God, we trust that you have heard our pleas,  
and that you will keep listening as we pray together...

**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** Psalm 146: Praise the Lord, O My Soul Michael Sitton

Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I praise the Lord yea,  
as long as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God.  
O put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man for there is no help in them.  
For when the breath of man goeth forth he shall turn again to his earth  
and then all his thoughts perish.  
Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help  
and whose hope is in the Lord his God;  
Who made heaven and earth, the sea,  
and all that therein is who keepeth his promise for ever.  
Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong who feedeth the hungry.  
The Lord looseth men out of prison the Lord giveth sight to the blind.  
The Lord helpeth them that are fallen the Lord careth for the righteous.  
The Lord careth for the strangers; he defendeth the fatherless and widow  
as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.  
The Lord thy God, O Zion, shall be King for evermore and throughout all generations.

— Psalter of *The Book of Common Prayer* (1662)

**\*DOXOLOGY #606** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION** (unison)

based on Proverbs 22:9,23; James 2:1,8

**Generous God, thank you for these gifts  
we bring from your abundance.**

**Bless gifts and givers to show your love  
to all those in need through Jesus Christ,  
healer of the sick, advocate of the afflicted,  
provider for the poor. Amen.**

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

**\*HYMN #772**

“Live into Hope”

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Postlude

Alan Rideout

## *Join us after worship*

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

## **Children and Worship**

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 today by Jackie Wong and Mckennan Henninger .

For effective faith development, children over 5 years old are encouraged to experience the entire worship service with their parents. To help, children's bulletins, books and coloring pages are available on the table outside the chapel.

If you have questions about children and worship, please contact Suzie Lane at [suzielane@dpchurch.com](mailto:suzielane@dpchurch.com) or 615-406-4915.

## Annual DPC Picnic Next Sunday, September 23



Join us following worship ( around 12:30 pm) at Shelby Park (East Nashville) at the Mission Shelter (same place as last year)

Everyone is welcome and invited to bring a side dish or dessert.

Fried chicken, biscuits, soft drinks, ice tea, and water will be provided by the Hospitality Committee.

Lawn games, musical instruments and well-behaved pets are encouraged!

Stephanie Coleman and Erin Bell will be coordinating Hospitality committee volunteers willing to help set up and clean up.

Shelby Park, 2009 Sevier St., 37206

To locate Shelby Park and the location of the shelter, go to the Parks and Recreation page at [www.nashville.gov](http://www.nashville.gov).

## New Adult Education Next Sunday

Next Sunday Pastor Mike will address

### **THE SYNOPTIC PROBLEM**

Synoptic means “seen together,” and together we call Mark, Matthew and Luke the synoptic gospels because they substantially agree with each other on the chronology and events of Jesus’s life. Where they tell the same stories about Jesus they do so almost always in the same order and often word for word. How do we explain such striking similarities (and, for that matter, equally striking dissimilarities)? That’s the **Synoptic Problem**.

This fast, fun and informative session covers:

- questions of gospel authorship: who, when, where, why
- each author’s source material
- the Four Source Hypothesis (the dominant explanation)
- other possible explanations
- the particular theological emphasis of each author
- what’s up with John; why is he so different?

We’ll start at 9:45 in Parlor 2. See you there!

## The Nominating Committee Needs Your Help

The 2018 Nominating Committee - Claire Armbruster, Nina Cardona, Jim Hoobler, Jim Dickson, Cary Gibson and Pastor Mike Wilson (ex-officio) - have begun their work identifying potential nominees for ruling elder for the session class of 2021.

DPC members are invited to make suggestions for consideration by the Nominating Committee which is charged with selecting three candidates to replace the outgoing class of 2018, Jim Dickson (Christian Education chair), Cary Gibson (Worship co-chair) and Michael Korak (Building & History chair).

### **How to make a suggestion for our consideration:**

Please submit name(s) by email to Jim Dickson at [deserata1@hotmail.com](mailto:deserata1@hotmail.com)

The deadline for suggestions is Monday, October 1, 2018 and suggestions should include a brief explanation of why you believe that person would be a good ruling elder and member of session. You may also recommend yourself to the committee. All submissions must be in writing.

*continued*

*Please note that the work of a PC(USA) Nominating Committee is to be held in strict confidence and committee members cannot discuss your suggestions or our deliberations with the congregation, and lobbying on behalf of potential nominees is discouraged.*

The Nominating Committee is tasked with nominating individuals in the context of the session as a whole so that the elders in active service represent the diversity of the congregation; create a strong leadership team with a balance of gifts, skills and experience to serve the congregation's various needs; and support our Pastor and staff.

**Criteria for eligibility:**

Those who have been a DPC member for one year and have been active in the life of the congregation.

Elders should be persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. (Book of Order G-2.0301)

In addition to committee work and administrative responsibilities, in our Presbyterian tradition, ruling elders are also called to:

- equip and renew the people for their task within the church  
and for their mission in the world
- visit, comfort, and care for the people
- assist in worship
- cultivate their ability to teach the Bible
- strengthen and nurture the faith of the congregation
- encourage the people in worship and service of God

Since the session is responsible for many duties in the church, elders should have some of those abilities to assist in carrying out that work.

Our deep thanks in advance for participating in the life of the church by offering your suggestions and we welcome your prayers as we deliberate and discern.

## **Children's Sunday School**

School-age children (kindergarten and up) gather for Sunday School in room 211 from 9:45 am-10:45 am. Following Sunday School, their leaders will bring them to the chapel to meet their parents for worship.

It is wonderful for adults to share their gifts in ministry with children. If you would like to help with children's Sunday School, please contact Suzie Lane at [suzielane@dpchurch.com](mailto:suzielane@dpchurch.com) or 615-406-4915.

## **Gathering in the Sanctuary**

In an effort to sustain that extraordinary feeling and renewed and energizing spirit we felt worshipping in the Chapel over the summer, we are inviting everyone use the first ten rows in the center section and the first six rows on the sides. (For those who like hard numbers, that's more than twice the pew-feet available in the Chapel).

We enjoyed a wonderful intimacy in the Chapel that feels very different from the "big room." The smaller space certainly put us in closer physical proximity; we might describe the feeling as "comfortably full." It also put us closer together aurally - we could hear each other better and consequently sing and do liturgy with greater confidence, volume and enthusiasm. And while it may be a less tangible measure, we also experienced a spiritual and emotional intimacy that flows out of simply sitting close to other people.

Our hope is that you'll want to continue to worship close to those folks whose voices and spirits have surrounded you this summer. Like all new efforts, we know this will take some getting used to. So after a few weeks we'll evaluate how things are working and refine our practice.

And we are not simply going to let empty pews sit fallow. The Worship & Arts committee is working on ways we can transform parts of the sanctuary into spaces for prayer and meditation, art projects, kid-friendly zones and more.

## **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/yQj9wA>

We provide complimentary parking for all volunteers.

## **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!**

## Meet Scot Robinson!

DPC is pleased to welcome Scot Robinson as our Vanderbilt Divinity School intern. Scot tells us...

I'm a third year student at Vanderbilt Divinity School set to graduate this May. I'm married to Kelli Robinson, a musician and Appalachian environmentalist with a background in biology. We both hail from Pikeville, Kentucky, a small coal town in central Appalachia. When we're not busy with school and work, we enjoy playing Americana and rock music together. As an inquirer for ministry for PCUSA, I hope to be a part of the welcoming community at Downtown Presbyterian by serving alongside the congregation in a number of capacities while discerning my call to ministry during this internship this year. I look forward to getting to know everyone and being a part of the Christ-like work and service DPC provides to the community.

### 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

158 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on September 8.

#### 11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:55, Children:10

### Schedule of Weekly Events

#### Today

12:30 Session - Parlor 2

#### Monday, September 17

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Tuesday, September 18

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

#### Wednesday, September 19

#### Thursday, September 20

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Friday, September 21

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Saturday, September 22

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

#### Sunday, September 23

9:00 JuveNiles Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Choir rehearsal

9:45 The Synoptic Problem - Parlor 2

9:45 Christian Education - Rm #211

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, Maintenance Manager  
Dr. William Taylor, Director of Music

**THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
154 5<sup>TH</sup> AVE North, NASHVILLE, TN 37219  
(615) 254-7584; FAX (615) 254-4741

***Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!***

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

