



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2017

A Service of Lessons & Carols

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

To turn from everything to one face is to find oneself
face to face with everything.

– Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*

OPENING VOLUNTARY Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 J.S. Bach
Tune and text taken from Hymn #102

A Joyful Ring

Barbara B. Kinyon

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

based on Genesis 9:12-16

The Candle of Covenant

L: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb...

[*the leader continues*]...

...reminding us to look for God's promises and to listen for hope
where we often wouldn't expect it

**P: Today we give thanks for prophetic voices, old and new,
who bring to us divinely inspired visions of hope;
who challenge us to think boldly and beyond our frame of reference;
and who reflect to us a future we never anticipated**

L: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the
prophets who raised their voices as heralds of God and who spoke of the
coming of Christ – the one who was the unexpected liberator of humanity,
the vulnerable incarnation of the holiest of holies, a new name for God.

P: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP Hodie Christus Natus Est

words and music by Michael Bedford

Hodie Christus natus est. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluja.

Today is Christ born. Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

The angels sang to the shepherds three, as they knelt on bended knee,
“Christ is born this holy morn! Hurry to Bethlehem and see!”
The shepherds left the hillside bare, traveled over the meadows fair,
Till in awe the Child they say, lying in a manger there.

May we, like those shepherds poor, come, the Christ Child to adore.
May we here, every year, worship within the church’s door.
Then may we, with joyful call, carry the news outside this hall.
Thus we’ll share, everywhere, God’s great gift to one and all.

*HYMN #104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Why should we fear? Whatever we have said or done;
whoever we have neglected or whatever we have refused to do,
surely God has washed away with the waters of life.
Let us bring our lives to the One who comes to give us hope and life,
in this and in every season, as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Merciful God,

you have given us the gift of your Spirit.

Why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?

You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself.

Why, then, do we ignore what we have heard from you?

You have sent the light into the world.

Why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?

Forgive us. Restore us.

Tend and till us as your garden

until righteousness and praise spring up,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

(Time for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: As plain as the heart in our chests, the good new is this:
God is our hope. God is our life. God is our future.
So let us shout with joy:

P: **We are forgiven, we are saved! Thanks be to God!**

L: Now, let us celebrate our salvation!
May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: **And also with you!**

*GLORIA PATRI #92 “While We Are Waiting, Come” (vs. 2)

With power and glo - ry come;
with power and glo - ry come.
Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,
while we are wait - ing, come.

The image shows a musical score for a Gloria Patri. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves are for a vocal part, and the last two are for a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'With power and glo - ry come;' followed by 'with power and glo - ry come.' on the second staff. The third staff begins with 'Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,' and the fourth staff continues with 'while we are wait - ing, come.'

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

based on Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever. Amen.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1:1-5

Cary Gibson and Eric Near, readers

Creation: *Creation from Jewish and Christian perspectives*

The Glory of the Father

Egil Hovland

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.
In the beginning was the Word.
The Word was with God.
In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
He came to His own and His own received him not.

– Adapted from John 1

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 9:12-16

Jim Dickson, reader

Covenant: *God's commitment to all people is from the beginning of time and will continue beyond the end of time.*

Hymn #55

“Come Like Driving Wind, O God”

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Debra Gentry, reader

Prophecy: *God will send one “from the stump of Jesse” to lead the people in righteousness.*

Hymn #100

“Canticle of the Turning”

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-33

Megan Pacella, reader

Choice: *A woman dares to believe new possibilities can be conceived when they seem impossible, and chooses to work in partnership with God for a better world.*

Wonderful words and music by Eric Near

From the void to creation the King of all nations
the God of all that was, is, and will be.
The image of goodness Creator God
who would bless our lives with all that God has made.
Jesus Christ is here today born in Bethlehem to save in a manger he was laid
Emmanuel, the King the ruler of all nations, wonderful.
To heal a hurting world to bring God's people in
to bear our suffering He came from above.
And the people live to bring God's Kingdom here
reconciled and holy in God's sight.
Before all things were made,
God is creating the promise of our life through Christ the Son.
The ruler and authority of all living things the One we proclaim King of Kings.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Tom Wills, reader

Birth: *God is more than a theory or a story; in Jesus we discover the heart of the universe of the Universe present to us in a person.*

Away in a Manger

Matthew Culloton

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by My side till morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

— Anonymous; J. T. McFarland

SIXTH LESSON

John 1:9-18

Kim McMullin reader

Luke 2:8-16

Chuck Cardona, reader

Good News for All People: *Our stories are full of people getting excited that hope for a better world will soon be fulfilled.*

Angles We Have Heard on High

arr. Bob Burroughs

SEVENTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-15a

Chris Leonard, reader

God's Presence Overcoming Fear: *As we experience God-with-us in Jesus, we discover that at the heart of creation there is a saving Love, greater than the deathly force of fear in ourselves or others.*

Daughters of Rachel

words and music by Jodie O'Regan

There will be time daughters of Rachel for this tiny seed to grow to a tree.
There will be time daughters of Rachel for this mighty tree to reach up,
into the sky.
There you will find daughters of Rachel comfort at last
in the shade of the mighty leaves.
And in the cave in this mountain will be called hallowed ground.
And the blood will wash clean here where the black waters run.

continued

There will be time daughter of Rachel for this tiny light to blaze across the sky.
There will be time daughter of Rachel for this light to blaze
so bright filling the sky.
There you will find daughters of Rachel a light
so bright it will turn the night into day.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

Betsy Bahn, reader

Sharing Love: *At Christmas we participate in God's generosity
by opening our homes, sharing food, enjoying people's talents and exchanging gifts.
At all times we share God's generosity in hospitality and work for justice
because we see God present in each and every person.*

Hymn #795

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

We Respond to God's Word

PRAY OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(people read bold)

based on Luke 3:7-18

Let us offer our prayers of intercession to God, saying,
God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

Lord of Life, you call us to prepare the way for your reign
by bearing fruit worthy of repentance.

You lift up a vision before us of a world that is shared and fair,
where needs are met and no one is outcast.

Baptize us fresh in your Spirit as we pray,
God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

We pray for the nations of the world, both allies and enemies,
for their leaders and their people.

Make yourself known to us all,
that all the peoples of the earth may live in justice and peace.

God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

For your church here and abroad,
that we hear your call for justice as good news for all people.

God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

We pray for peace in our world,
especially for those caught in war, and for all who live in fear of
violence, extortion, threats, and false accusations.

God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

For those who suffer from natural disasters, from hunger and cold.
Lead us to share our food and our coats with them.
God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

For the frail, the sick, and all those whose hands grow weak,
lead us to help them with gentleness.
God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

For those who are disabled, oppressed, or outcast among us,
change their pain into praise,
and let their courage be renowned in the world.
God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

For the earth from which we draw our health, our strength, our inspiration,
and for all the living creatures in whose community we live –
God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

For all those people and circumstances that occupy our hearts and minds.
[Here you may say aloud your individual prayers of concern or joy.]

Surely, God, we can trust in you and not be afraid.
Lead us in songs of praise and shouts of joy, for you are in our midst.
We pray through the one who baptizes us not only with water
but with the Holy Spirit, the one who taught 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

What'cha Gonna Call the Pretty Little Baby

African-American Traditional

What 'cha gonna call the pretty little baby born, born in Bethlehem.
Pretty little baby lying in a manger.
Shepherds and wise men worship the baby.
Humble and holy Son of God.
Come to save the world from sin.
What 'cha gonna call him? Call him King Jesus.
What 'cha gonna call him? Call him Immanuel.
What 'cha gonna call him? Call him the King of Kings.

Amy Finka, soprano

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow.

Praise God all crea - tures here be - low.

Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;

Cre - a - tor, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us,
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor
to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope;
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

*HYMN #119

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729
Tune taken from Hymn #132

J. S. Bach

We wish to thank all those making this service possible. Especially we would like to thank Dixie Williamson and Edward Cardona for their ongoing support and assistance with the JuveNiles choir.

Adult Choir Members

Alyson Haley
Edward Cardona
Chris Szalaj
Ryan Norris

Amy Finka
Emlyn O'Regan
Jennifer Morely
Sara Chang
Emily Williamson

Dixie Williamson
Jodie O'Regan
Nina Cardona
Tom Ashley

Handbell Choir Members

Alison Letcher
Denny Harris

Glenda Harris
Dixie Williamson

Samera Zavarro

JuveNiles Choir Members

Dylan Chang
Derek Chang
Joshua Bell

Jackson Wills
Lili Near
Lily Byl

Gideon Byl

Wonderful Instrumentalists

Brandon Bell, upright bass
Eric Near, piano

Dave Coleman, guitar
Mike Wilson, percussion

Today bulletin cover image is by DPC Artist-in-Residence Cary Gibson.
About it she writes:

When my friend R.J. wondered if, “creation is not a binary order but instead kaleidoscopic,” I was inspired. This is a digital manipulation of an original work in felted fibers by my niece, Sequoia. I turned back time on her underwater scene to imagine the creative process that brought the oceans to life. Perhaps this is the deep as if seen through a microscope or, as Pastor Mike interpreted it, creation at a sub-atomic level. However we imagine it, the creation myth in Genesis, which starts our service today, is a story out of time: creation is perpetual, like a kaleidoscope endlessly turning. We are part of that creation, being made new and filled with possibilities. Creation isn’t binary, nor are we. Our becomings, our beginnings, and our kaleidoscopically diverse being are all something to marvel at and be thankful for.

You can see Sequoia’s beautiful piece on the DPC Voices blog on our website, dpchurch.com.

Anthem for the Seventh Lesson

From the time I first saw the stunning Egyptian Revival architecture of DPC, I wanted to write a liturgical work that would belong in that space. Egypt plays a role in the Nativity - when the Holy Family fled the massacre of the innocents, they sought refuge in Egypt. According to the Coptics, the Holy Family lived in a cave on the side of a mountain, next to the black waters of The Nile. I wrote this text from Mary's point of view as she heard Rachel's cries and realized what had happened in Bethlehem. I think given The Magnificat, Mary was made of mighty stuff and understood who she was tending, and what her son would become. These are her words - singing to the mothers of the Innocents in Bethlehem.

Jodie O’Regan
Composer-in-Residence

2018 Lessons & Carols Notes

This year's Lessons & Carols scripture sequence was adapted from a scripture collection curated by The Kauri Church in Whangarei, New Zealand. The Kauri Church is a progressive Presbyterian church founded by Scots settlers in the 1854. Their pastor writes that their lessons & carols service "gives an 'history with a thread of meaning'; demonstrating how our faith tradition traces the activity of God's liberating grace through the generations of the earth." "The focus of the story is the incarnation: God's irretrievable commitment to the human community."

You will hear how those themes reflect the larger Biblical narrative: God's creative acts that we hear about in Genesis and John; the covenants that God makes with Noah and Abraham; the insistence of the prophets that God will redeem humanity; Mary's choice to be God's partner in salvation; and the incarnation and birth of Jesus, our savior. The story reflected in the readings also takes us *beyond* Christ's birth and toward the core of his teaching, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind... And you must love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Matt. 22:37-39)

The movement is also from the cosmic to the particular, from God creating order out of chaos to a single infant wrapped in bands of cloth and the man he would become.

This year our five Advent Candles, composed by Scot Robinson, our VDS field education student, correspond to the first five lessons of today's lessons & carols service. They are: Creation, Covenant, Prophecy, Choice and Birth.

Upcoming Worship Services:

- Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.
- Our Christmas Day Service will be in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m.
- Our service on Sunday, December 30, will be in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m.

Waffle Shop Thank You!

A big thank you to all who do participated in this year's 93rd Waffle Shop! I received a big response from my call for bake goods, craft items and other sellable items. Thank you again. Jo Ann Byl

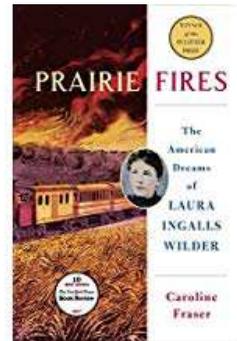
Nursery Childcare

After the Word For Our Youngest Disciples, parents may take younger children (5 and under) to our nursery, staffed today by Jessica Cardona and Stephanie Coleman.

DPC Book Group

"The DPC book group will have its next meeting on Thursday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m. (location to be determined). We will be discussing Caroline Fraser's *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*, which won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Biography.

Contact Joel Dark (joelhdark@gmail.com; be sure to include the "h") for more information."



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!

DPC Clothes Closet

We at DPC maintain a clothing closet to help meet the needs of our homeless and urban poor guests on Saturday morning. As we head into the winter season, the clothing closet needs a few extra items to help our guests stay warm and dry.

Items of greatest need are:

- sweatshirts (hoods preferred)
- coats
- hats
- gloves (larger sizes for men are most needed)
- scarves.
- thermal under-layers in all sizes

We also need sample-sized toiletries:

- bars of soap
- sample-sized shampoo & conditioner
- trial sized deodorant
- toothbrushes and trial or sample sized toothpaste
- chapstick (not lip gloss/lipstick)

Lastly, we always need the following items for men and women:

- Jeans (sizes 30-36 for men are in highest demand)
- Socks - MUST be new
- Underwear - MUST be new

Due to space and time constraints, we ask that you please limit donations to these items of greatest need for the winter season. Thank you for supporting the clothing ministry of Downtown Presbyterian Church!

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.

Parking

Parking for Sunday worship is in the SP+ garage at **147 4th Ave. N.**

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

Our Ministries Last Week

Saturday Breakfast Ministry

126 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on December 8.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:72, Children:12

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

1:00 Session - Parlor 2

Monday, December 17

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, December 18

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

Wednesday, December 19

Thursday, December 20

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, December 21

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, December 22

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

Sunday, December 23

9:30 Congregational Breakfast

9:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Education – Parlor 2

9:45 Children's 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

Scot Robinson, Vanderbilt Divinity Intern

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!

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

