



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 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

"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."

– Madeleine L'Engle

OPENING VOLUNTARY

T. Frederick H. Candlyn

Prelude on Divinum Mysterium
Tune and text taken from Hymn #108

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

based on Luke 1:26-38

The Candle of Choice

L: "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look!..."

[the leader continues]...

Let it be a sign of her openness to the possibility of something bigger and better - something beyond the world's wildest dreams:
she would bear a son who would set us all free.

P: **Merciful God, for you nothing is impossible.**

Through a poor young woman in a small town
you gave birth to your realm of endless peace.

By your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life and hope
and overshadow us with your power and grace,
so that we, like Mary, might be your servants.
let us bear witness to the promise of your Word
through Jesus Christ who is coming to reign.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: God passes the heirloom of mercy down from generation to generation,
always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life.

P: As we open our hearts to God, we are filled
with the joy that was sung at the Birth,
with the hope that walked among us,
with the grace which is always with us.

L: Then let's let our joy and hope and grace overflow
as we say to each other, "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 musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first two staves are for the first two lines of the verse, and the last two staves are for the final two lines. The music ends with a double bar line.

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy One, through your Spirit,
instruct us by your light.

Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call
to become your path into the world.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. 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.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-55

(NT p.57)

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

SERMON

Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten," vs. 1,3,4,6

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

Let us pray , saying,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy God, you reveal yourself in so many ways,
especially in your son, Jesus Christ.

We gather up the prayers of this community
for the church, the world, and all in need,
confident that you know our deepest thoughts
and will refresh our spirits.

We pray in the name of the One

who transforms structures of power and privilege

and renews the heavens and the earth, Christ our Savior.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the church:

We pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ
who gather as we do on this day all over the world:
in grand cathedrals and modest chapels;
in house churches and storefronts;
among the rich and the poor;
among immigrants, and in hospitals and prisons;
in open, public worship
and in places where our faith is persecuted or outlawed.

Wherever the church is found on frontiers of mission and service,
empower its witness to strengthen and stretch the vision of your people.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the earth and all creatures:

We pray for the healing and well-tending of all that you have given us;
for water and air, soil and stars;
for creatures that roam the seas
and those that fly thousands of miles in migration;
for mammals and reptiles,
insects and microbes in swamps and forests and in our own homes.

Show us their beauty and our need for them.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For an end to violence, oppression, and injustice:

We pray for all who sing with Mary a song of joy for deliverance;
for all people who long to hear your promise of good news;
for all peacemakers;
for governments that hold at the heart of their work
the needs of people otherwise invisible;
for all people left homeless and destitute by the greed of others.

Lead your people from darkness to light.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For Mary and Joseph in every land:

We pray for all people who face the enormous vocation of raising children;
for biological parents and adopting parents,
for grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends;

for children who long for a parent's or guardian's love and care;
for children who will be born today;
and especially for those born into hunger and insecurity.
Let the light of your desire for our well-being shine through all children.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those we hold dear
and those who have asked for our prayers.
We pray for everyone who is in any need today:
for the lonely; for all people who are anxious at this time of year;
for our elders in nursing homes;
for people who cannot find work
and those whose work is not life-giving for them.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those we name now either out loud or in our hearts . . .
[names may be called forth from the assembly].
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For our own lives:
We pray that Mary's song of joy
and Joseph's loyalty will be magnified in us.
Fill us with the breath of Advent.
Stir us to extend ourselves beyond what we thought possible.
Show us that like Mary, we need not fear.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer all these prayers in the name of the One who gave us his own vision
for the future in 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

The Linden Tree Carol

Old German tune

arranged by Reginald Jacques

There stood in heav'n a linden tree, but, tho' 'twas honey laden,
All angels cried, 'No bloom shall be like that of one fair Maiden.'

Sped Gabriel on wingèd feet, and pass'd through bolted portals
In Nazareth, a maid to greet, blest o'er all other mortals.

'Hail Mary!' quoth the angel mild, 'Of woman-kind the fairest:
The Virgin ay shalt thou be styled, a babe although thou bearest.'

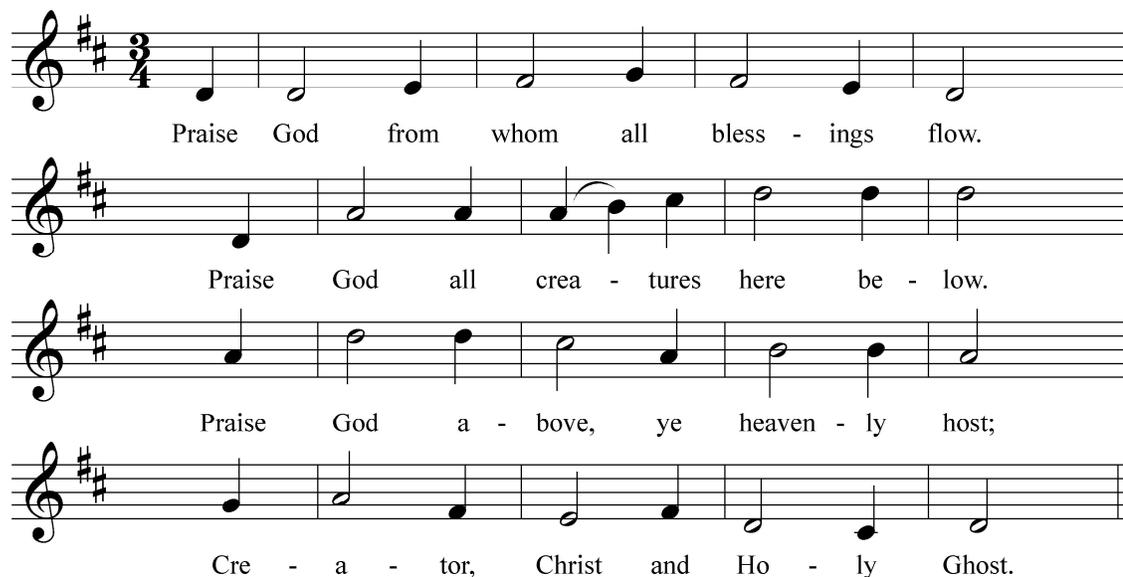
'So be it!' God's hand-maiden cried, 'According to thy telling.'
Whereon the Angel smartly hied up home-ward to his dwelling.

This tidings fill'd his mates with glee: 'Twas pass'd from one to other,
That 'twas Marie, and none but she, and God would call her Mother.

—translated by G. R. Woodward .

*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)

We thank you, O God, for all that draws us close together,
astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude.

Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude
for what you give us every day
and as honor to your presence in our world;
for the sake of those who stand in need
and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

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

*HYMN #127 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/Jesus the Light of the World"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: Let all God's people say, P: **Merry Christmas! Amen.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding William Henry Monk
arranged by G. Winston Cassler

Flowers for today's service were donated by
Irene and Ridley Wills in memory of Jesse Wills II.

Today's bulletin cover is by DPC artist-in-residence Tom Veirs

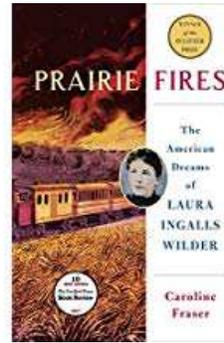
Upcoming Worship Services:

- 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.

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."



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!

Nursery Childcare

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

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 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

131 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on December 15.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:97, Children:10

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

Monday, December 24

- 4:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25

- 10:00 Christmas Day Service - Chapel

Wednesday, December 26

Thursday, December 27

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, December 28

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, December 29

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

Sunday, December 30

- 9:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 Adult Education – Parlor 2
- 9:45 Children's Education - Rm #211
- 11:00 Worship - The Chapel

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 5TH 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
or scan this QR code

