

**THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 31, 2019

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**

"I am the prodigal son every time I search for unconditional love where it cannot be found."

— Henri Nouwen

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

Ave Maria  
Amy Finka, soprano

Giulio Caccini

**WELCOME**

**EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES**

L: ... As we extinguish the fourth candle of Lent, we acknowledge the darkness that can manifest from our unrighteous anger and the light that emits from the liberating nature of forgiveness.

**P: In the name of Jesus, who shines in the darkness and is not overcome, we pray, Amen.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Hymn #166

L: And through these days of penitence,  
and through this Passion-tide;

**P: Yes, evermore, in life and death,  
O Lord, with us abide.**

L: Sisters and brothers,  
let us continue our journey with Jesus, together.

**\*HYMN #166** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

## CALL TO CONFESSION

We know our faults -- the way we have treated others,  
our alienation from God, our unwillingness to be faithful people.  
So let's not hide or remain silent,  
but offer our confession to the One who surrounds us with steadfast love.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Luke 15:11-32

On this very day, Waiting God,  
we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you.  
You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder,  
yet we would hide in places where temptation waits.  
You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse,  
because you also welcome those we call 'outsiders.'  
We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make,  
but hope you will ignore our foolish choices.

Celebrating God, before we come to our senses,  
we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms,  
tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession,  
a mighty river restoring us to new life.  
In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
we find no limitations on your grace, no reservations about your love,  
but a feast that overflows with wonder,  
a place we can finally call home.

(Time for silent confession)

## \*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: God rolls away everything that stands in our way –  
our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation –  
and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation.

What amazing grace.

Broken, we are made whole;

lost, we are brought home;

empty, we are filled with songs of gladness.

As God's children brought home, let us greet each other with joy.

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)

Loving God, like a parent running to greet a beloved child,  
may we eagerly come to the reading and proclamation of your word,  
and may our hearts and minds be illuminated by your Spirit.

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.

*(Children under age 6 may go with the nursery staff. Children ages 6 and up are encouraged to remain in the sanctuary.)*

FIRST READING

Psalm 32, antiphonally  
*See page 5*

SECOND READING

Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

(NT p.76)

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

SERMON

Mike Wilson

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*HYMN #771

"What Is the World Like"

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*As today's prayer is offered, you are invited to close your eyes and listen.*

*Today prayer response will be:*

**L:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**P:** Lord, have mercy.

*During the prayer, the leader will open a space for you to say aloud your individual prayers.*

## THE LORD'S 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

Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts      Henry Purcell

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts. Shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers, but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty. O holy and most merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee. Amen.

– Sentences from the Burial Service

## \*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)

**May we not be like the older brother,**

**grumbling and resentful of your generosity.**

**Rather, with joy and hope, we offer our gifts**

**that others might be swept up in your loving and gracious arms.**

**Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #649      "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Psalm 32:1-7 (CEB, alt.), antiphonally  
right side reads **bold**, left side reads *italics*

**The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered over, is truly happy!**

*The one the LORD doesn't consider guilty –  
in whose spirit there is no dishonesty –  
that one is truly happy!*

**When we kept quiet, our bones wore out.**

*We were groaning all day long –  
every day, every night! –  
because your hand was heavy upon us.*

**Our energy was sapped as if in a summer drought.**

*So we admitted our sin to you;  
we didn't conceal my guilt.*

**"We'll confess our sins to the LORD," is what we said.**

**Then you removed the guilt of our sin.**

*That's why all the faithful should pray to you during troubled times,  
so that a great flood of water won't reach them.*

**You are our secret hideout!**

**You protect us from trouble.**

**You surround us with songs of rescue!**

## **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!

## **Nursery Childcare**

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

## **Conversations on Atonement**

How are we reconciled with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus? What was accomplished on the cross? Those are some of the questions that our doctrine of atonement seeks to answer. And it is not enough - and rather unsatisfactory - to say simply, "Jesus died for our sins."

On April 7 Pastor Mike will continue the series in which he explores some of the many and broad understandings of atonement. We'll look at their origins, strengths and weaknesses, and moderate conversations around how they resonate with us personally.

The conversations will continue at 9:45 on **Sunday April 7** in Parlor 2. And prior attendance is *not* required.

## **Cottage Dinner Sign-Up**

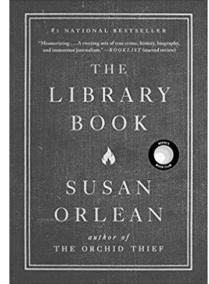
It's time to sign-up for Good Friday Cottage Dinners! **Friday, April 19** is Good Friday and we have several amazing hosts to choose from. We have hosts out in Bellevue, two in East Nashville, Pastor Mike will be hosting at the church, and one at Shelby Bottoms during the day for the whole family! It's a casual, potluck dinner with prayers and liturgy. Cottage Dinners, not including Shelby Bottoms, runs roughly from 6:30-9:00 or whenever the hosts deem they want to put their jammies on and call it a night!

**Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex, so grab a spot today!**

If you have any questions, please email or call Mary Turner at 615.294.8040 [mturner2624@gmail.com](mailto:mturner2624@gmail.com).

## DPC Book Group: The Library by Susan Orlean

*The Library Book* is about the 1986 Los Angeles Central Library fire and the mystery of how it started—but in some ways that’s the least of it. It’s also a history of libraries, and of a particular library, as well as the personal story of Orlean and her mother, who was losing her memory to dementia while Orlean was retrieving her own memories by writing this book.”



Meeting **May 9th**, 6:30 pm. Place TBD.

## New Member Classes

Are you interested in exploring membership at DPC? Want to learn more about what it means to be a Presbyterian? Pastor Mike will be forming a new member cohort soon. The group usually meets for three Sundays before worship.

Whether you’ve just started worshiping at DPC or if you’ve been attending for months (or even years), there will be plenty to talk about. And there’s no pressure to join; this is foremost an opportunity for conversation, information and inquiry.

If you’re interested in attending or just have some questions – email Mike at [mikewilson@dpchurch.com](mailto:mikewilson@dpchurch.com).

Once he knows how many people will be participating, he’ll set the dates and place.

## Spring Cleanup Day

On Saturday, **April 6**, you are invited to join us after the Saturday breakfast to help spruce up the church for Easter. We’ll do some cleaning and polishing, getting rid of some clutter, and doing our best to make the church bright and shiny for Easter and beyond.

There will be tasks big and small...something for everyone! And lunch is on us! Inquiring minds can call Denny Harris at 615-833-3923 or use the signup genius link in the weekly e-votion.

We’ll start at 10:00 a.m. Gather in Fellowship Hall for assignments. And remember:  
*Many hands make light work!*

## First Sunday Lunch Meet-up



Join us **April 7**, right after worship, at the Nashville Farmers' Market for our First Sunday Lunch Meet-up! Get some food from one of the fantastic vendors, then look for friendly faces in the dining area.

Nashville Farmers' Market is at 900 Rosa L. Parks Blvd.



### **First Saturday ART CRAWL (that's April 6th!)**

Come from 6pm - 9pm to:

- Listen to the music of Jon Byrd in the sanctuary;
- Experience Stations of the cross throughout;
- View Jana Hunter's art in the Browsing Room

## DPC Family Bike Ride

Bring your bicycle and meet us at Cumberland park on **Saturday, May 4** at 11 am for a leisurely family friendly 10 mile ride on protected bike lanes out to the Shelby Bottoms greenway and the pedestrian bridge over the Cumberland. The terrain is flat and we'll bring water, snacks, and some bicycle expertise so you can enjoy a worry free bike ride. Talk to Rachel Hayes at 615-525-7974 for more information.

## Bombas Socks Donated to DPC Clothes Closet

The Bombas Sock slogan, "1 pair purchased, 1 pair donated," couldn't be more true as the company shipped 1,000 pairs of their socks to DPC last week for our Clothes Closet! DPC's Clothes Closet provides free clothing to our homeless guests on Saturday mornings. For the second time in two years, we applied for a sock donation and are again the recipients of their kind generosity. Last year Bombas donated 500 pairs, which were given out in about 3 months' time. Please support Bombas by purchasing their beautiful socks at [bombas.com](http://bombas.com)!

**Thank you Claire for your efforts!**

## **Stations of the Cross**

The Stations – also called The Way of the Cross or Way of Sorrows – depict fourteen images, drawn from scripture, 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 come from the imaginations of several DPC members and friends who conceived their work based on a passage from one of the four gospels.

The walk begins with Station #1 in the Sanctuary and printed guides are available so you can continue the journey through the building.

## **Presbyterian Women's Group**

Hear ye, hear ye! Are you interested in the Presbyterian Women's group? It's a national organization with local groups. DPC does not currently have an active group. If you would like to learn more about the organization and possibly spear head one for our church, please contact Mary Turner at [mturner2614@gmail.com](mailto:mturner2614@gmail.com) or 615-294-8040.

## **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!**

## 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.

## DPC Clothes Closet

We are making a few changes to the clothing closet ministry to better maximize volunteer availability and the space available.

Please plan to drop off donations on Thursdays from 11-1 or Saturday from 9:30-10 as the breakfast program is winding down.

We currently need the following items for men and women:

- jeans in good condition
- casual T-shirts
- sweatshirts (hoods preferred)
- tennis shoes in good condition
- sample size toiletries

Monetary contributions can be made electronically by texting "dpchurch" to 73256 and selecting clothes closet from the drop-down menu.

For more information about the clothes closet please go to [www.dpchurch.com](http://www.dpchurch.com).

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

## 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 3:00 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

158 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on March 23.

62 people visited the clothes closet on March 23.

#### 11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:60, Children:8

### Schedule of Weekly Events

#### Today

#### Monday, April 1

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Tuesday, April 2

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

#### Wednesday, April 3

#### Thursday, April 4

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Friday, April 5

8:00 Choirs of America

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Saturday, April 6

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

10:00 Spring Cleanup Day

6:00 ART Crawl

#### Sunday, April 7

9:00 JuveNiles Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Children's Education - Rm #211

9:45 Adult Education - Parlor 2

(Conversations on Atonement)

11:00 Worship - The Sanctuary

12:30 First Sunday Lunch Meetup  
- Farmers Market

## 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 2019

Chuck Cardona  
Jack Henderson  
Justin Near

Class of 2020

Dave Coleman  
Debra Gentry  
Vickie Coffin

Class of 2021

Mary Turner  
Jim Hoobler  
David Maddox

### 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](http://www.dpchurch.com)  
or scan this QR code

