

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 10, 2017

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We're all a little weird. And life is a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall into mutually satisfying weirdness—and call it love—true love.

— Robert Fulghum

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Elegie

Gordon Young

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 149:1,4,5

L: Praise the Lord!

P: Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

L: For the Lord takes pleasure in the people.

P: Let the faithful sing for joy.

*HYMN #396

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Amid the countless things that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God, there stands this: God loves so much that God bathes us with grace and feeds us with mercy. Confident in the love of God, let us pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Ezekiel 33:11; Psalm 119:36-37; Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 13:13

L: From evil, even when it masquerades as good,

P: Merciful God, deliver us.

L: From selfishness and vain desires,

P: Merciful God, deliver us.

continued

L: From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy,
P: **Merciful God, deliver us.**
L: From hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences,
P: **Merciful God, deliver us.**
Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings.
Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to forgive,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

(time for silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE** based on hymn #377

L: In Jesus there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
Know with confidence that we who are followers of Jesus
are children of the light.
By God's grace, in us, right now, there is no darkness at all.
So let us greet each other now, as children of the light.
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 Psalm 119:34; Matthew 18:20

Awaken our hearts and minds to your Word, O God.
Give us understanding so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we are able to do all that you desire for love's sake
Gathered in Christ's name, gathered around the Word, 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.)*

***OLD TESTAMENT READING** Psalm 8 (antiphonally)

THE MESSAGE translation, alt.

right side reads **bold**, left side reads *italics*

God, teach us lessons for living so we can stay the course.

Give us insight so we can do what you tell us

- our whole life one long, obedient response.

Guide us down the road of your commandments;

we love traveling this freeway!

Give us a bent for your words of wisdom,

and not for piling up loot.

Divert our eyes from toys and trinkets,

invigorate us on the pilgrim way.

Affirm your promises to us

- promises made to all who respect you.

Deflect the harsh words of our critics

- but what you say is always so good.

See how hungry we are for your counsel;

preserve our lives through your righteous ways!

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 13:8-14

(NT p.162)

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

SERMON

Solipsism's Slippery Slope

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

***HYMN #377**

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

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

based on Romans 13:13

God of grace and steadfast love,
we thank you for your commandments, which order our life together.
We thank you for calling us to live honorably with one another
and pray for your grace as we try to do all that you desire for us.
Increase in us, we pray,
the capacity to love you and our neighbors without reserve
and to love even those who harm us.
Not halfheartedly, but with our whole hearts,
we bring before you the cares, the concerns, and the joys that occupy us.

We remember before you those who are at odds with one another
in families, in neighborhoods or offices, and even in the church.
We pray for nations in the midst of internal or external struggles and conflict.
Teach us, O God, to seek nonviolent ways toward resolution.
Help us to speak the truth
and to listen with understanding when perspectives are far apart.
We pray for love to bring peace into every troubled heart and place.

We remember before you those who have physical needs today.
People who are hungry and thirsty;
people who are exhausted by the demands of work or caregiving;
people who are sick, or undergoing surgery;
and people who live with chronic pain.
Bring relief and rest, we pray.

We remember those weighed down with needs of heart and soul.
A worry that keeps us awake at night,
grief that accompanies us everywhere we go,
depression that clouds us, or an addiction that grips us.
Lift all of these heavy burdens
with the light and peace of your presence, we pray.
Sustain us over the long journey toward health and give us trust
in you, ourselves, and those who love us.

We pray now aloud or in silence for those particular people or circumstances
who are in need of your healing, comfort or provision.
[Here you may say aloud your prayers of petition and concern.]

We remember before you not only our cares,
but also our joys—
a birthday celebrated, an anniversary enjoyed;
new beginnings—
a baby born, a new school year begun,
a new job, a new relationship.

We thank you, O God, for the gift of laughter,
for enduring friendships, and for cherished memories.
We give thanks that with you there is always a new beginning,
a way where this is no way, hope beyond hope,
and life beyond death.

We pray now aloud or in silence our prayers of gratitude and rejoicing.
[*Here you may say aloud your prayers of joy and celebration.*]

All these prayers we offer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord,
who invited 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

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsulemus, et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen

Translation

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen

— Latin from the *Liber Usualis* & the *Gregorian Missal*; trans. by Michael W. Martin

*DOXOLOGY #609

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures



high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise



God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it



one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*) based on Romans 13:11

God of our salvation, we know what time it is – time to wake from sleep and to turn from selfishness. We offer now our time, our talents, and our resources to be used for your good purposes and all for love’s sake. Through Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

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

*HYMN # 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Diapason Dialogue

Gordon Young

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.

Electronic Giving!

Want an easy way to donate to DPC? Just text "**dpchurch offering**" 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!



The Downtown Presbyterian Church Summer Picnic is next Sunday, September 17, at Shelby Park immediately following 11am worship. The Hospitality Committee will provide fried chicken and soft drinks. Guests are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. There will be pickin' (bring your instruments), grinnin' (bring smiles) and activities for children.

The address for the park is: South 20th St. at Shelby Ave. We'll be at the Mission Picnic Shelter (same spot as 2016). To locate Shelby Park and the location of the shelter, go to the Parks and Recreation page at nashville.gov.

Inquiries and ideas may be sent to clairearmbruster@gmail.com.

Calling for DPC Liturgists

From September 2017, each Sunday worship will be led by 3 liturgists. In preparation, we are creating 3 new liturgy teams. Pastor Mike will work with the teams to develop your specific gifts & skills. Whether you're a seasoned DPC liturgist or want to join this important ministry, here's a quick guide to the 3 liturgy teams & their distinctive liturgical gifts & responsibilities.



1. Dialogical

Opening our worship, the dialogical team is ideal for liturgists who can look the congregation in the eye & "go big" with confidence, authority & enthusiasm.

Responsibilities: Call to worship; invitation to & prayers of confession; assurances of pardon.

2. Scripture



With clear diction, a strong voice & a flair for the dramatic, much like an actor, scripture readers spend time with a passage & prepare it for oral presentation much like a script. A scripture might be in the form of a story, a letter or a poem & each demands a different style of performance.

Responsibilities: Read first scripture lesson & help the lead other dialogical elements

3. Prayers



Good prayer leaders infuse their words with nuanced emotions, tone & pace- each prayer can include petitions of concern, sorrow, plea, celebration, contrition, thanksgiving, demand & more. These liturgists create a calm, confident space for the congregation to pray aloud or in silence.

Responsibilities: Prayers of the people & other occasional prayers

To join a team: add your name to the sign up sheet in the narthex or email Pastor Mike mikewilson@dpcchurch.com. You can also contact Pastor Mike if you want to discuss which team you feel called to serve.



DPC Book Group

The DPC book group will have its next meeting in October on a date to be determined at the home of Jim and Faye Dickson. We will be discussing *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore.

Please contact Joel (joelhdark@gmail.com) for more information.

Hand Bells Fundraiser

DPC has recently been given the opportunity to purchase a 3-octave set of handbells with all of the bells and whistles included. If you have any interest in making a donation so that we can make this purchase, please fill out a pledge card on Sunday morning, leave a check in the offering designated to “handbells,” or text “dpchurch offering” to 73256 and select “Handbells” from the dropdown menu.

Nursery Notes

Volunteering to provide childcare for our youngest children is a wonderful way to show them how much DPC loves for them. To sign up to help in this important way, check your calendar for available dates and send your dates to Suzie Lane at suzielane@dpchurch.com. She will add you to the schedule and send you a reminder.

We're looking for pictures!

DPC is celebrating Children's Sabbath on October 1. In anticipation of that, the children are making a banner and we need pictures of children, all kinds of pictures of all kinds of children..

- Drawings
- pictures from magazines,
- photographs
- pictures from Christmas cards
- printed from the internet (*no copyright infringement, please!*)
- any other place you can find pictures

Size and color do not matter, but the more cultures and ethnicities, the better. So, start looking and cutting out! You can leave pictures in the office during the week or give them to Suzie on Sunday mornings. Deadline for pictures is September 15.

Clothes Closet Help!

We maintain a clothes closet to help our homeless and urban poor guests on Saturday morning. We are in need of many items, including:

- Men's short sleeve T-shirts: all sizes
- Men's shorts: all sizes
- Men's pants, especially size 30 waist
- Men's jeans – all sizes
- Men's boxers and briefs – all sizes
- Women's casual dress shirts – any size (appropriate for work)
- Women's leggings – all sizes
- Women's pants and jeans – larger sizes
- White socks for men and women
- Wash cloths
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen

Perhaps you have some things you haven't worn in a while and can donate. Or maybe you can pick up a few extra items at Target or the drugstore. And remember, your clothing dollars can go a long way at one of Nashville's several Goodwill locations!

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.

Starting this month, Otter Creek will start sending volunteers for the Third Saturday breakfast that was previously run by the DPC Community. Volunteers from DPC are welcome EVERY Saturday, but are greatly needed for the 5th Saturdays in September and December. We also 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>

Or use this QR code:



We provide complimentary parking for all volunteers.

If you can volunteer please respond to dpcbreakfast@gmail.com.

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

165 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on September 9.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:65, Children:6

Wednesday Lunch Ministry

170 people enjoyed lunch in a warm and friendly environment.

Community Assistance Fund

26 people received assistance from the Community Assistance Fund this week.

Visitors and Tourists

36 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Monday, September 11

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, September 12

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Wednesday, September 13

Thursday, September 14

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, September 15

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, September 16

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

Sunday, September 17

9:00 Juveniles Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Christian Education – all ages

11:00 Worship – the Sanctuary

12:30 DPC Church Picnic – Shelby Park

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 2017

Rev. Mike Wilson, Moderator

Betsy Bahn, Clerk

Jeff Koontz, Treasurer

Class of 2017

Tom Byl
Michael Arwood
Ridley Wills II
Claire Armbruster

Class of 2018

Cary Gibson
Michael Korak

Class of 2019

Chuck Cardona
Jack Henderson
Justin Near

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

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Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!

Check us out at: www.dpchurch.com
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