

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2017

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Q: What is the chief and highest end of humanity?

A: Humanity's chief and highest end is to glorify God,
and fully to enjoy God forever.

— The Larger Westminster Catechism, question 1

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Joel Raney, arr.

Prelude on *Amazing Grace* and *Hyfrydol*

Tom Ashley, pianist

WELCOME

*GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Hymn #336

We Gather Together

Hymn #375

Shall We Gather at the River

Hymn #399

God Welcomes All

CALL TO CONFESSION

God's never-ending love is strong. Strong enough to withstand even our indifference to, or rejection of, that love. Strong enough to never let us go even when we try to wiggle free. With that confidence, let us offer our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We could have mercy, Compassion's heart,
but we judge others by those standards we cannot even meet.
We could welcome all around us as sisters and brothers,
but hold them at contempt's length away from us.
We could have patience with family and friends,
but tap our feet and drum our fingers until they do what we want.
In your forgiveness, Tender God,
you wipe the board clean of all our poor accounting.
You don't deal off the bottom of the deck to us,
but turn up the ace of grace for us.
You gather up all our foolishness
and hurl it beyond the edge of the universe,
so the healing you intend for us through Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior, will take place.
Amen.

(time for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: Here is the good news. God does not hold a grudge against us,
but welcomes us in an embrace of never-ending love.

P: **We will not be afraid, but will open our hearts and lives
to God's compassionate grace.**

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

L: And as God's fearless and forgiven people,
let us exchange signs of reconciliation and friendship.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: **And also with you!**

*GLORIA

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

based on hymn #451

Open our eyes and ears, O God,
that we might catch a glimpse of the truths you have for us.
Illumine us, Spirit divine!

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.)*

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46-55

(NT p.57)

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 103

(OT p.554)

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

SERMON

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #54

"Make a Joyful Noise to God"

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

Let us pray to the Lord, saying,
Loving God, hear our prayer.

Loving God:

We pray for those who are sick or in trouble.

[Here you may say aloud the names of those in need of healing and comfort.]

Heal their disease, relieve their distress,
and return to them the joy of salvation.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer the violence of war or natural disaster

[Here you may say aloud the those places experiencing war and hardship.]

Bring an end to violence that destroys human flourishing;
help us to live in peace with our neighbor
and enable us to dwell in harmony with the earth.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for children

and for all who depend upon the support of others.

Protect the vulnerable, shelter the weak,

and give strength and wisdom to those who care for them.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for elected officials and for civil servants.

Stir up in them a desire for justice,

enable them to fulfill their responsibilities with integrity,
and drive from them any spirit of selfish gain.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for pastors, elder, staff and volunteers

and all the saints who lead your church.

Grant them wisdom to know your truth

and give them courage to live as faithful disciples of Jesus.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray now aloud or in silence all our other prayers
of petition or celebration.

[Here you may say aloud other prayers of concern or joy]

Loving God, you have poured out on us with steadfast love and mercy.

Receive our prayers and help us to trust your goodness.

PRAYER SONG #469 “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

And hear us now as we pray with power ...

**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 I'll Fly Away Albert E. Bramley
Arr. by Craig Courtney

Some glad morning when this life is over, I'll fly away,
To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away,
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away,
To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away.

Gabrielle Lewis and Joy Thurman, pianists

*DOXOLOGY #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
traditional tune; OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God from who 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 hymn #837

It is a joy to lean on the everlasting arms of Jesus. May these offerings allow this church and her people to *be* those arms, providing safety and security and opportunity for all to walk their pilgrim way.
Amen.

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

*HYMN # 837 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

*HYMN # 384 "Soon and Very Soon"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

Today's anthem was purchased in loving memory of Rachel Love Steele. As an elder, Ms. Steele was very instrumental in the 2008 restoration of the DPC pipe organ and the 2009 dedicatory recital. Ms. Steele requested I'll Fly Away be sung at her memorial service. After years of searching for a suitable arrangement, today we offer this new composition on her behalf.

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!



The Downtown Presbyterian Church Summer Picnic is **TODAY** 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.

Children's Sabbath Donations

DPC is collecting the following items for Safe Haven Family Shelter as a way to address the needs of children in our area. **ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW**. Items will be collected in worship on October 1. Questions? Contact Suzie at suzielane0@gmail.com.

Crayola paint brush sets
Crayola Washable Kids Paints
Lego sets
Duplo sets
Mr./Mrs. Potato Head
Play-Doh
Baby wipes, unscented

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!

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 on Thursday, September 21, at 6:30 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."

Handbell Update

A super-huge thanks to all of you and all of your friends who made a donation towards the purchasing of handbells for DPC!

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you donated via mobile or check and did not designate handbells specifically, please contact the church office at [615-254-7584](tel:615-254-7584) to make sure that your money goes to the right place.

And we aren't done quite yet. We have just under \$1,000 left to go!

A single handbell ranges from \$215-375 if you're interested in "sponsoring" a bell. Better yet, would you like a handbell piece written in your honor or dedicated to a loved one? \$500 or more will get you just that - a brand new handbell composition written by DPC composer-in-residence, Eric Near, with your name on it.

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:57, Children:10

Community Assistance Fund

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

Visitors and Tourists

72 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Monday, September 18

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2
- 6:00 Worship & Arts Committee Meeting at Church

Tuesday, September 19

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Wednesday, September 20

Thursday, September 21

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, September 22

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, September 23

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

Sunday, September 24

- 9:00 Juveniles Rehearsal
- 9:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 Christian Education – all ages
- 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 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
or scan this QR code

