

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 8, 2017

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Christ is at the center of the church's life, but Christ is found at the margins. Therefore, the church's center must be the margins."

— Rob Saler, executive director of the Center for Pastoral Excellence at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, summarizing Dietrich Bonhoeffer's argument in *Christ the Center*

OPENING VOLUNTARY Improvisations on *Nettleton* and *St. Christopher*
Melodies taken from Hymns 475 and 216

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come because we want to know God,
who seeks to shape us as faithful people.

P: **Not that we already are,
but we strive to be the community of grace.**

L: We come because we want to know Jesus,
who would plant justice deep in our hearts.

P: **Not that we always do
but we seek to welcome each person.**

L: We come because we want to know the Spirit,
who shines hope on all people.

P: **Not that we always are able,
but we seek to share the light of peace in our world.**

*HYMN #36

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Philippians 3:4b-9

Whatever good we may have done is nothing compared to the righteousness of Christ. Whatever wrong we may have done is nothing compared to the grace of God. With faith in Christ's righteousness and confidence in God's grace, let us offer our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) based on Philippians 3:4b-9; Matthew 21:33-35

We certainly have reasons to brag, Watching God.
We know all the rules and keep them (well, most of them).
We have dotted our i's and crossed our t's,
even if we have trouble with words like forgiveness and hope.

Forgive us, Merciful God.
We believe we are such a rich bouquet of wine,
but our tangled lives often produce sour grapes for others to taste.
Whether it is our pride, our achievements,
our success which we value the most, may we let them go to grasp that
which all too often eludes us
- that love, that peace, that hope which Jesus Christ
our Lord and Savior presses on to offer to us in each and every moment.

(time for silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE** based on Philippians 3:7-9

L: Let us not boast, but simply open ourselves to the grace,
the forgiveness, the hope given to us by our God.
It is that faith in Christ which restores us to new life,
faith beyond anything of any value.

P: **Thanks be to God for this good news.**

We are prized, we are loved, we are valued. Amen!

L: Now, as God's prized, loved and valued people,
let us show how much we value one another,
sharing signs of reconciliation and affection.

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 Philippians 3:10

God of all wisdom, give us your Word and send us your Spirit so that we may know Christ. 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

Isaiah 5:1-7

(OT p. 634)

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 21:33-46

(NT p.24)

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

SERMON

Not Our Vineyard

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #316

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

& THE LORD'S PRAYER (people read bold)

Planting and nurturing God,
We plead with you today,
 may charity and love prevail.

For the victims of violence,
 whether massive or mundane;
 whether it's the brutality of murder
 or the cruelties of words spoken thoughtlessly;
 whether it's guns or gossip.
We plead with you today,
 may charity and love prevail.

Today our hearts are broken and our minds reeling
 over the carnage in Las Vegas – only the most recent.
Do not let us become numb or ever accept such things as normal.
May our sorrow and outrage be heard by those with the power
 to mitigate these too-common atrocities.
We plead with you today,
 may charity and love prevail.

We pray for the people of Puerto Rico
 and those devastated by hurricanes Harvey and Irma.
May we not forget them - and the victims of disasters around the world -
 after the cameras have moved to the next story.
We plead with you today,
 may charity and love prevail.

Our national discourse is broken, God of *all* people.
Inspire us to move beyond 140 characters,
 to a place where the fundamental humanity and inherent dignity
 of every person is honored and celebrated.
May those tasked with great responsibility and invested with great power
 exercise their responsibilities with humility, wisdom and compassion.
We plead with you today,
 may charity and love prevail.

Listening and revealing God,
we all have come here today in search of something or in need.
In this room today are those who need healing in their
hearts, minds and bodies.
Some come with prayers for others,
those they love or those they know by circumstance.
Many are anxious about the future.
Others may be contending with financial issues,
family problems, difficulties at work - or no work at all.
There are surely people here wrestling with loss -
the loss of someone they love, the loss of certainty,
the loss things held dear.
Hear us as we offer to you, either silently or aloud,
those prayers and petitions and all the other
pleas of our souls.

We plead with you today,
may charity and love prevail.

And hear us now as with offer with urgency 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 Christ Is Our Cornerstone Edgar H. Aufdemberge

Christ is our cornerstone, on Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled.
On His great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.

Here, gracious God, do Thou forevermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow and mark each suppliant sigh.
In copious shower on all who pray each holy day Thy blessing pour.

continued...

Here may we gain from heaven the grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once given, be with us evermore
Until that day when all the blest to endless rest are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise those hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim in joyful song, both loud and long, that glorious name! Amen.

— Latin author unknown; translated by John Chandler

*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*)

O God of the eternal vineyard, may these gifts, which we have willingly surrendered, be used wisely to produce good fruit for your kingdom.
Amen.

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

*HYMN # 703 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Allegro Maestoso from *Water Music* G.F Handel

Our guest organist for today's Service is Mark Beall

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!

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 Tuesday, October 10 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.

WE DID IT!!!

Congratulations to everyone at Downtown Presbyterian Church for raising the money to purchase a beautiful 3-octave set of hand bells with all of the bells and whistles included!

As we begin this new ministry, please consider joining the newest DPC choir, our hand bell choir. But I can't read music? Not a problem as long as you can count to 6. But, it's been awhile since I've played hand bells? Not a problem either. During our first rehearsals we will begin with the basics and take our progress very slowly. Our first organizational meeting will be Sunday, October 22, following the 11 a.m. service. During this meeting, we will discuss our weekly rehearsal time.

Please contact William Taylor, our director of music, if you have any questions.

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!

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 and Women's long sleeve shirts: all sizes
- Men's and Women's sweatshirts: all sizes (hoods preferred)
- Men's and Women's jeans – all sizes
- Men's and Women's underwear—MUST BE NEW
- Socks for men and women—MUST BE NEW
- Sample Size Toiletries
- WINTER COATS
- Gloves, hats, and scarves

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

145 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on October 7.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:65, Children:15

Community Assistance Fund

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

Visitors and Tourists

32 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Monday, October 9

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, October 10

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study – Parlor 2

Wednesday, October 11

Thursday, October 12

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, October 13

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, October 14

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

Sunday, October 15

9:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Christian Education – all ages

11:00 Worship – the Sanctuary

1:00 Session – Parlor 2

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

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

