



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

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

“[Our] many failures may open that place in us where we have nothing to brag about but everything to be loved for. It is becoming a child again, a child who is loved simply for being, simply for smiling, simply for reaching out.”

— Henri Nouwen in *Seeds of Hope*

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Arioso from *Five Voluntaries for Organ* Robert J. Powell
Prelude on *The Holly and the Ivy* Robert J. Powell

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Ruling Elder Claire Armbruster (Class of 2017)
Ruling Elder Jim Dickson (Class of 2018)

L: We light this candle with love.
I will sing of the Lord's loyal love forever.
I will proclaim your faithfulness with my own mouth
from one generation to the next. (Psalm 89:1)
God of love,
you are love, and those who abide in love abide in you.
Teach us how to love one another
as reflections of your light in the world.

P: God of promise, God of love,
into our darkness come.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

“The Candle of Hope”
verse 4

1 The can - dle of hope we light in this hour
2 The can - dle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
3 The can - dle of joy re - minds us to sing,
4 The can - dle of love tells that what we are worth:
5 The Christ can - dle's light that shines for us here

pro - claims that the Lord is com - ing in power.
the - wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
for God loves us so good news that God has come to the new thing.
God tells out the good news that God has come to the earth!
near!

We wait for a fu - ture, now hid - den from view,
Our guns and our wea - pons, our ha - tred and war,
The proud will be hum - bled; the low - ly will rise.
An an - gel brought news of a child who would be
God came, a poor ba - by, in one time and place,

when Christ in his glo - ry will make all things new.
will give way to is gar - dens that heal and re - store.
God's king - dom is one of de - light and sur - prise.
the one who would save us and set us all free.
to show all cre - a - tion the wealth of God's grace.

*HYMN #88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
verses 1, 6, 7

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Luke 1:50-52

God shows mercy to everyone. God scatters our arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. God lifts up the lowly. Let us open our hearts to God, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Luke 1:26-38

God of surprises,

we pretend not to hear your messengers calling our names.

We look away, sure that there must be a mistake,

for we are afraid to believe that you would trust us to
bear you into the world.

We are just ordinary people trying to get by.

We wish you would choose someone else.

Have mercy on us, O Most High.

Help us to believe with Mary.

Send your Spirit upon us, that we may indeed

live for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

(Time for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

based on the hymn "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

L: Jesus Christ was born to save!

He calls you one and calls you all

to gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save!

P: Thanks be to God: through Jesus Christ, we are saved!

L: Now, filled with the spirit of salvation,

let us greet each other in the spirit of the season.

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 Luke 1:46

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us
as we await the coming of your Son.
Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth
and glorify you according to your Word;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.)*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:26-55

(NT p.56)

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

SERMON

Why Not?

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN

“An Angel Gabriel Went to Galilee”

(Music page at end of liturgy)

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

Let us join our voices with Mary,
who celebrates God's greatness and sings of God's blessing
for all who are poor and oppressed.

Eternal God, we pray for the world,
that our warring ways may be overturned, even now,
through the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ;
for nothing is impossible with you.

We pray for the mission of your church,
that we may proclaim the good news of the age
as we rejoice in the gift of our Savior.

We pray for all who suffer,
that we may feed the hungry and lift up the lowly
through the power of your holy and life-giving Spirit.

We pray for your creation,
that we may safeguard its well-being
from generation to generation to your honor and glory.

We remember before you those who have died
and pray for those who will die today,
that they may rest with you eternally in your kingdom where there is no
end.

We pray for those whose conditions or circumstances have moved us to
compassion, sorrow, celebration or joy.

[Here you may say aloud your individual prayer for healing and wholeness.]

Through Christ, with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we magnify you, everlasting God,
as we reveal your will with these words,

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 Angel Gabriel

Richard Peek

The Angel Gabriel from God was sent to Galilee,
Unto a Virgin fair and free whose name was called Mary.
And when the Angel thither came, he fell down on his knee
And looking up in the Virgin's face, he said, "All hail, Mary."

Mary anon looked him upon, and said, "Sir, what are ye?
I marvel much at these tidings which thou has brought to me.
Betrothed I am unto an old man, as the lot fell unto me;
Therefore, I pray depart away, for I stand in doubt of thee."

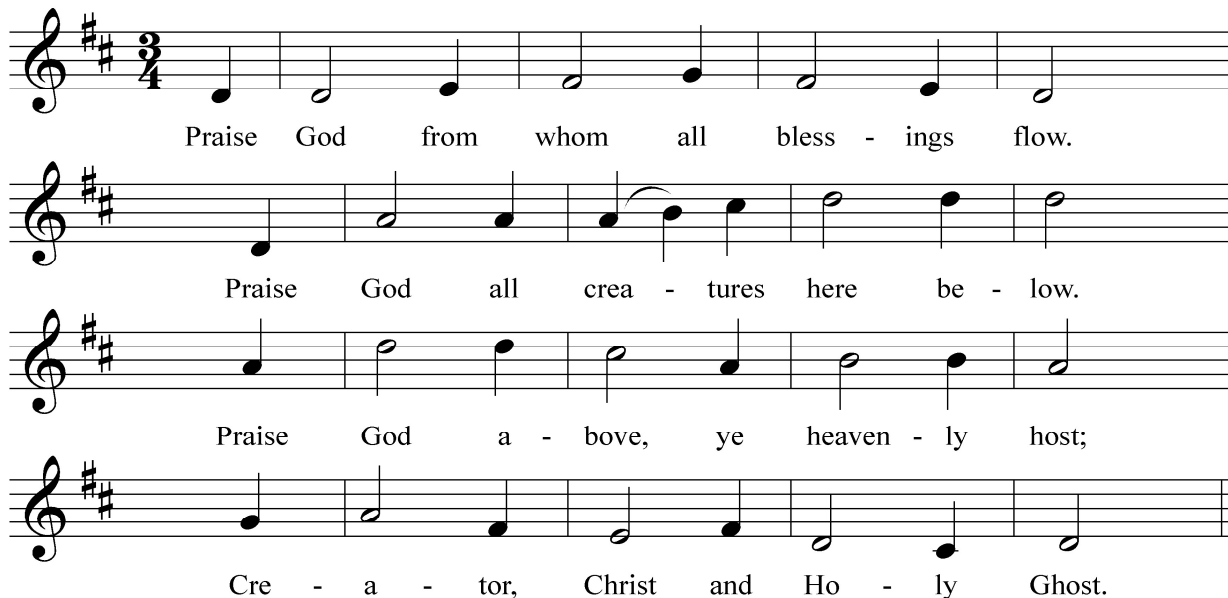
"Mary," he said, "be not afraid, but do believe in me:
The power of the Holy Ghost shall overshadow thee;
Thou shalt conceive without any grief, as the Lord told unto me;
God's own dear Son from heaven shall come, and shall be born of thee.

Then, sing we all, both great and small, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell;
We may rejoice to hear the voice of the Angel Gabriel.

— Traditional Devonshire Carol

DOXOLOGY

“PUER NOBIS”



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*) based on Luke 1:52-53

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son,
whom you so freely share with us.

Bless these gifts that we offer
to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry
in your coming reign of justice and peace;
in Christ's name. Amen.

**We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts
and We 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: Alleluia, Amen!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus Raymond H. Haan

“An Angel Gabriel Went to Galilee”

1. An - gel Ga - bri - el went to Gal - i - lee in - to Naz - a - reth, a
 2. An - gel Ga - bri - el said to Ma - ry there: “Name him Je - sus! He will
 3. An - gel Ga - bri - el shared God’s wond - rous plan: “Old E - liz - a - beth is
 4. God, we live in fear and we won - der here: Are there bless - ings that still

back - woods town— “You’re God’s fa - vored one! You will bear a Son.”
 be a king.” Ma - ry, as she prayed, heard, “Don’t be a - afraid.”
 preg - nant, too!” She’s six months a - long! Go and sing the song;
 come our way? When there’s so much wrong, can we sing your song?

See God’s bless - ings come a - tumb - ling down! Ma - ry won - dered:
 See God’s bless - ings and the joy they bring, Ma - ry won - dered:
 “God is bless - ing me and bless - ing you!” Ma - ry won - dered:
 Can we see your love at work to - day? God, we won - dered:

Oh, Ma - ry won - dered, oh, Ma - ry won - dered,
 O God, we won - der, O God, we won - der,

“How could this be?” It seemed so odd. Came the an - swer:
 “How could this be?” It seemed so odd. Came the an - swer:
 “How could this be?” It seemed so odd. Came the an - swer:
 How can it be? It seems so odd! Send your good news:

Then came the an - swer, then came the an - swer:
 Send us your good news, send us your good news:

“Noth - ing, noth - ing is too hard for God.”

Biblical References: Luke 1:39–56

Tune: SHOWALTER (“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”) 10.9.10.9 with refrain, E. A. Hoffman, 1887

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

Today's cover image is by the children of DPC, **Wilmer Sterling, Eliza Bell Edy Sterling, Rowan Near, Lili Near, Lily Byl, Joshua Bell, Dylan Chang, and Jackson Wills**. Their art is based on Luke 1:30, "The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.'"

Handbell Choir Note

We thank everyone again for contributing to the purchase of the three-octaves of handbells. Additional contributions allow us to purchase much-needed supplies. We also extend a **huge thanks to Emily Zavaro** for purchasing the material and sewing seven tablecloths which cover the handbell tables!

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!

Thanks from Monroe Harding

Thank you so much for your generosity this holiday season! Because of you we were able to sponsor every child and young person we are currently serving - 52 foster kids, 19 young people in our Independent Living residential homes and 38 gift bags for the older youth that are a part of our Youth Connections resource center! Christmas can be a challenging season for many of the kids and youth we serve, but having something they asked for to open on Christmas morning is a way that we can show them tangible love and support so they know they are cared for and valued! And we are able to do that through your generosity!

Thank you again from all of the Monroe Harding staff and we wish you a Merry Christmas!

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

150 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:74, Children:9

Visitors and Tourists

53 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

4:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal
4:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 25

10:00 Worship— The Chapel

Tuesday, December 26

Church Closed

Wednesday, December 27

Church Closed

Thursday, December 28

Church Closed

Friday, December 29

Church Closed

Saturday, December 30

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

Sunday, December 31

9:45 Christian Education
9:30 Adult choir rehearsal
11:00 Worship — The Chapel

Monday, January 1

Church Closed

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!

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

Carey 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

