

# THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS DAY 2017

(\*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

## We Gather in God's Name

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY Prelude on *Puer Nobis Nascitur*Tune taken from Hymn #68

Nicolas Lebègue

\*CAROL #28

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Isaiah 9:6

L: For a child has been born for us;

P: a son given to us;

L: authority rests on his shoulders;

P: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

\*CAROI #41

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER (unison)

Almighty God, Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, born in Bethlehem. May we receive Christ into our lives and become, through him, your blessed children who walk in the light you have sent into our world. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

(Time for silent prayer)

#### PASSING THE PEACE

- L: On this day of hope and peace, joy and love, let us respond to the light of Christ that glows within each of us, embracing one another in his name. May the peace of Christ be with you.
- P: And also with you.

\*GLORIA #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (verse 1)

## **God's Word Is Proclaimed**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears, bringing salvation to all. Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit, that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace and welcome Christ in our world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20 (NT p. 58)

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

**SERMON** 

Rev. Dr. Mary Louise McCullough

## We Respond to God's Word

\*HYMN #27

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

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

Sisters and brothers, in Jesus, God's Word became flesh to birth love in our hearts and peace in our world.

As we celebrate this gift of life in Christ, let us pray for the church and the world saying,

O God of Love,

draw us together in peace.

Your messenger announces peace in shouts of breathless joy; drive out the warring ways of our world and protect all who face danger this day as you guide our feet to travel with the One who is your peace.

O God of Love,

draw us together in peace.

Your Word comes with justice to rule the earth with fairness; inspire the leaders of all nations and citizens of the world to promote dignity and equality for all in your global household.

O God of Love,

draw us together in peace.

Mountains and rivers clap and sing as your Word makes all things new; awaken us to the damage we do to your world and mend our ways, that all creation might breathe again the liveliness of your blessing.

O God of Love,

draw us together in peace.

When shepherds met your newborn Christ they eagerly ran to tell the news; make us joyful messengers of your good news who freely share your love in the world.

O God of Love,

draw us together in peace.

In Jesus, your love takes on human form to seek us out and guide us home; may Christ be born in us today to lead us into the lives for which we were made.

O God of Love,

draw us together in peace.

From your majesty on high to the lowliness of the stable, your Word has power to sustain all things, and through him we become your precious children; comfort those who are hungry, sick, or suffering, and in all our afflictions anoint us with the oil of gladness as you visit us with your salvation.

O God of Love,

draw us together in peace.

Unto us a child is born this day, to live and die and rise again; bless all who are born today and all who will die, that your will for them may be fulfilled in the one who is the way, truth, and life.

O God of Love.

draw us together in peace.

And hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers of concern and joy, longing and hope, aloud or in silence.

O God, receive our prayers through Christ who is our glorious light. May we, like him, shine forth like the sun in bodies, breath, and beating hearts to sing your praise forevermore, and as holy partners in a heavenly calling.

And hear us now as we repeat these eternal 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 A Manger Carol words & music by Dale Wood

Softly the lantern sheds its beams across the manger where You lie.

Here You are safe no harm is nigh.

Sweet be Your sleep and sweet Your dreams

While friendly beasts their vigil keep watching over You while You sleep.

Sleep now in peace.

The blessed mother rests and the father keeps you from all harm as angels watch your bed.

Softly the lantern beams over the manger where You lie.

Here You are safe no harm is nigh. Sweet be Your dreams

Tom Ashley, baritone

\*Doxology #40 "Joy to the World" (verse 1)

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (unison)

On this glad new day for all the earth we are grateful for giving hearts made joyful in the gift of your Son. For you, O God, are generosity itself. Bless these gifts we offer to the benefit of those in need. Bless our lives in service of sharing your love in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

## We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts

**CAROL** #48

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Christ is host of this table.

Everyone, without exception, is invited to receive the Sacrament. We will come forward to receive communion by intinction, taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup. You may eat as you are served.

#### COMMUNION ANTHEM

Prelude on O Jesu Christ, dwin Kripplein Rudolf Moser (translation: O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is)

## We Bear God's Word Into the World

\*CAROL #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

CAROL #29 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Noël Angevin César Franck

Today's bulletin cover is by DPC artist-in-residence Sarah Shearer.

#### **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.

Claire Armbruster

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.

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Rev. Mike Wilson, Moderator Betsy Bahn, Clerk Jeff Koontz, Treasurer

Class of 2017Class of 2018Class of 2019Tom BylCarey GibsonChuck CardonaMichael ArwoodMichael KorakJack HendersonRidley Wills IIJustin 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 5<sup>TH</sup> 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