



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

A Service of Lessons & Carols

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

OPENING VOLUNTARY Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Polish Carol
arr. Bob Burroughs

What Child is This? English Ballad
arr. Johnie Dean

WELCOME

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Jeffrey Richard

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Hodie Christus natus est, Salvator apparuit.
Alleluia, Christ our Lord is born today.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, angels in the heavens sing.

— Charles Wesley; Neil Phillips, composite

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

L: We light this candle for peace.

Faithful love and truth have met;
righteousness and peace have kissed.

Truth springs up from the ground;
righteousness gazes down from heaven. (Psalm 85:10-11)

God of peace,
you speak peace into the world through the way of the Christ-child.

Help us to live as peacemakers, that we may be called children of God.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP "The Candle of Hope," verse 2

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 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.
 God loves us so good news that God has come to the new earth!
 tells out the good news that God has come near!

We wait for a fu - ture, now hid - den from view,
 Our guns and our wea - pons, now 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 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 #140

“Once In Royal David’s City”

vs.1 Jen Way, soprano; vs.2 choir, vs. 3 & 4 all

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Mark 1:2-3

God comes! Let us prepare the way. God comes to forgive us!
Let us prepare our hearts as we offer our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We confess that our fine, whatever it may have been, has been paid,
God of Comfort and Grace.

Yet we still insist on earning our way into your heart.

We confess that you are beyond patient with us,
but wish you would act quickly against those who hurt us.

We confess that while your word will stand forever,
it is our words of pain and anger that cause long-term harm to others.

Your Messenger has come, Approaching God,
crying out of your forgiveness and hope.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, you speak to us:
not of punishment, but of peace;
not of judgment, but of justice;
not of a sentence, but salvation.

And we offer our hearts in thanksgiving and hope.

(Time for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: Hear the Good News God speaks to you:

I love you; I forgive you;
I restore you to new life.

P: **We will not ignore the fact that God comes:**

not to condemn, but to comfort us;
not to scold, but to speak tenderly to us of hope, peace, joy
and love.

Thanks be to God.

L: And let us now embody those Advent virtues by extending signs
of reconciliation and friendship. 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 Isaiah 40:8

**The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever. Amen.**

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Tom Byl, reader

Adam Lay Ybounden

Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had our lady a been heavené queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen, Deo gratias!

– Anonymous 15th-Century Text

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Kim McMullin, reader

Rejoice, Rejoice!

Sheldon Curry

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice greatly!
Shout out loud, O daughter of Zion, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Your King comes to you triumphant and victorious,
humble and riding on a donkey.

His kingdom will cover ev'ry ocean,
from the start to the end of the earth.

– Zechariah 9:9, 10b adapt.

Justin Near, flute; Jewly Hight, triangle; Gabrielle Lewis, piano

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

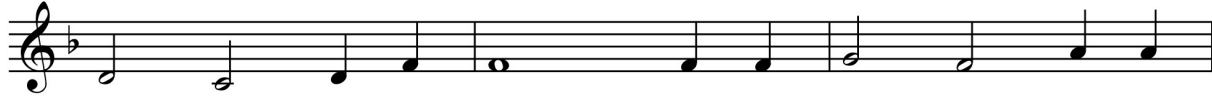
Chris Leonard, reader

Hymn

“Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort”



1. Lord, we long for words of com - fort, for a
 2. Lord, we long for words of prom - ise when we
 3. May we look to John the Bap - tist, to the
 4. May we turn from what di - vides us, from the



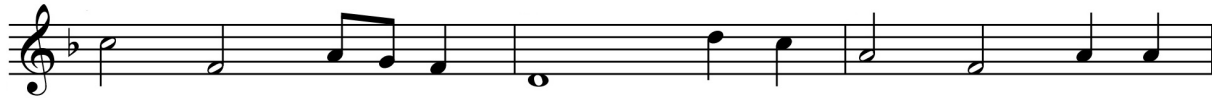
gen - tle, heal - ing word - that our suf - fer - ing is
 suf - fer for our sins, when it seems that hate is
 proph - et of you once sent, for he calls us to be
 ways of hate and fear! May your peace and jus - tice



end - ed, that our pen - al - ty is served.
 end - less, when it seems that trou - ble wins.
 hon - est, and he calls us to re - pent.
 guide us; may your love di - rect us here!



For the sins of gen - er - a - tions have com -
 Can we see, in des - ert pla - ces, that there's
 May we turn our eyes to Je - sus, to the
 God, we pray that, in pre - par - ing, we'll find



pound - ed till our day; God, the hope of all the
 hope for your new day? Will we lis - ten to a
 one that John pro - claimed. May we see how love can
 peace and chal - lenge, too. May we find a new di -



na - tions, give us good news now, we pray!
 proph - et show - ing us a bet - ter way?
 heal - us; may we trust in Je - sus' name.
 rec - tion as we wait to wel - come you.

Biblical References: Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8

Tune: BEACH SPRING (“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”) 8.7.8.7 D,

The Sacred Harp, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White

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FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Debra Gentry, reader

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

— Christina Rossetti

Amy Finka, soprano; Jeffrey William, baritone

FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 2:8-20

David McGinnis, reader

Hymn #98

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

M. D. Gilbert

vs.1 & 6-all; vs.2 & 4-men; vs.3 & 5-women & children

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Holly Kellar, reader

Here is the Little Door

Herbert Howells

Here is the little door. Lift up the latch; O lift!
We need not wander more, but enter with our gift.
A gift of finest Gold, Gold that was never bought nor sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about his head;
All for the Child who stirs not in his sleep,
But Holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed: for each he has a gift!
See how his eyes awake--lift up your hands! O lift!
For Gold he gives a keen-edged sword (defend with it thy little Lord)!
For incense, smoke of battle red. Myrrh for the honoured happy dead.
Gifts for his children, terrible and sweet,
Touched by such tiny hands and oh such tiny feet.

— Frances Chesterton

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Jack Henderson, reader

*Hymn #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(people read bold)

Isaiah 40:5-9; Psalm 85:11; 2 Peter 3:8

As heralds of God's good tidings,
let us lift up our voices with strength this day
praying to the One who comforts, restores, and heals.

Let us pray for all leaders and people of the world.
You have created one human family to live in justice and peace.

**Give us the wisdom to order our common life
according to your loving purposes,
that your glory may be revealed and all people shall see it together.**

Let us pray for your church.
You have given us the gift of the Messiah
so that your church may be steadfast and true.

**Give us strength to follow your Son
until all have come to repentance and are reconciled by his love.**

Let us pray for those who are sick, who suffer need,
who are exiled or in danger.
You have made us for a holy purpose, to comfort and care for each other.

**Give us compassion to love our neighbor
and patience to care for those in need.**

Let us pray for your creation.
Your faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and your goodness looks down from the sky.
**Rid us of the laziness and greed that diminish life
as you teach us to care for your creation together.**

Let us remember those who have died.
Ever-living God, one day in your presence is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like one day.

**Make us one with the saints,
who have found their eternal home in you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Let us pray now for all those people and circumstances that occupy our hearts and minds.

[Here you may lift up any people or situations that have moved you to compassion, sorrow, concern or joy.]

O God of blessing and wonder, we offer these prayers in the name of the agent of our salvation, Jesus the Christ, who offered 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

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Ruth Butler

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Let Us Bless the Lord

Eric Near

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Benedicamus Domino!

**Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:**

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

**You divine messengers, bless the Lord!
You who are mighty in power and keep his word, who obey everything he
says, bless him!**

continued

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,”
say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

**All God’s creatures, bless the Lord!
Everywhere, throughout his kingdom, let my whole being bless the Lord!**

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Benedicamus Domino!

**Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Amen.**

– Psalm 103, Isaiah 40

Gabrielle Lewis, piano

***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 Psalm 145:5-10

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth –

**giver of justice, lover of righteousness,
hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor.**

Your faithfulness never fails.

Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world

and to fulfill the promise of the world to come;

through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

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

*HYMN #119 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729 J. S. Bach
Tune taken from Hymn #132

We wish to thank all those making this service possible. Especially we would like to thank Dixie Williamson and Edward Cardona for their ongoing support and assistance with the JuveNiles choir.

Adult Choir Members

Amy Finka	Eric Near	Justin Near
Anne Landis Jetton	Holly Kellar	Nina Cardona
Dixie Williamson	Jeffrey Williams	Sara Chang
Edward Cardona	Jennifer Morley	Tom Ashley

Handbell Choir Members

Alison Letcher	Glenda Harris	Samera Zavaro
Denny Harris	Jim Dickson	Tom Zimmerman
Dixie Williamson		

JuveNiles Choir Members

Dylan Chang	Joshua Bell	Rowan Near
Edythe Sterling	Lili Near	Wilmer Sterling
Jackson Wills	Lily Byl	

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

Today's Offertory Anthem was composed by DPC member and composer-in-residence, Eric Near. Eric writes:

Let Us Bless The Lord is the English translation of the Latin text Benedicamus Domino, which, in the life of the Church, is a "recent" addition to formal liturgy. The text was largely unheard of prior to the 9th century within Rome, and may have originated in Western Europe around that time. The piece intersperses the texts "Benedicamus Domino" and "Alleluia" with selections from Psalm 103 and Isaiah 40. The texts are both prophetic in nature but illustrate a shift in tense from the promise of Isaiah to the exultation of the psalmist.

This piece is dedicated to the memory of the my grandfather, H. Wells Near (1928-1998), who served as an organist in Presbyterian churches for over 40 years, and led the recitation of Psalm 103 before countless family gatherings.

Today's Advent candle lighting liturgy was written by Teresa Strickland, associate for worship in the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship.

The hymns The Candle of Hope and Lord, We Long for Words of Comfort were written by prolific hymn writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Rev. Gillette serves as co-pastor with her husband of Overbrook PC in Philadelphia and has been composing contemporary and relevant texts for 20 years. This year she wrote a series of lectionary based Advent hymns using familiar tunes that we will be singing for the next few weeks. You can read much more about her at: carolynshymns.com.

This week's cover bulletin is an original piece on canvas by DPC artist-in-residence, Tom Veirs who joined our studios this fall. Tom surrounds himself with music as he paints and he accompanies this piece with lyrics from, "A Case of You" by Canadian singer-songwriter, Joni Mitchell:

*"I am a lonely painter.
I live in a box of paint.
I'm frightened by the Devil
and drawn to those ones who ain't"*

Congregational Breakfast – Next Sunday

Join us next Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for our annual congregational Christmas Breakfast. We'll enjoy breakfast casserole, pastries, fruit and more.

Upcoming Worship Services:

- Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.
- Our Christmas Day Service will be in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m.
- Our service on Sunday, December 31, will be in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m.

Children and Worship

The presence of children in worship is a gift to our church. We welcome them, wiggles and all. Families are encouraged to sit together in worship, at least through the children's message. After that, parents may take younger children (5 and under) to our nursery, staffed by loving caregivers. A greeter can direct you to the nursery. For effective faith development, we value older children (over 5) experiencing the entire worship service. To help, children's bulletins and activities to keep little hands occupied can be found on the table in the narthex. If you have questions or ideas for children's ministry, please contact Suzie Lane at suzielane@dpchurch.com.

Congregational Meeting to Elect Ruling Elders

On Sunday, December 10, we'll have a congregational meeting to elect ruling elders. The Nominating Committee has invited the following people to serve on session: Jim Dickson, Debra Gentry, Vicki Coffin and Dave Coleman.

Jim will serve a one-year term in the class of 2018. The others will serve three-year terms in the class of 2020.

We'll meet in the sanctuary right after worship. Only DPC members can vote but anyone is welcome to attend!

TUBA CHRISTMAS

Join Nashville's low brass community for this festival of carols and holiday favorites. It's not just tubas, you'll hear euphoniums – sing and double-belled – baritones, sousaphones, and more.



An offering will be collected that supports DPC's Community Assistance Fund.

It all happens on Tuesday, December 12 at First Baptist Church, on the corner of 7th and Broadway, with two shows at 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

DPC Book Group

ARLIE RUSSELL
HOCHSCHILD
STRANGERS
IN THEIR
OWN LAND



The DPC book group will have its next meeting on Tuesday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Faye and Jim Dickson. We will be discussing *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild.

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

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!

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:61, Children:11

Visitors and Tourists

36 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

12:00 Congressional Meeting
to Elect Ruling Elders

Monday, December 11

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, December 12

11:00 Tuba Christmas at First Baptist
11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2
6:00 F&P, B&H Meeting at the Cookery

Wednesday, December 13

Thursday, December 14

11:00 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, December 15

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, December 16

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

Sunday, December 17

9:00 Juveniles rehearsal
9:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:45 Christian Education
11:00 Worship
12:15 Youth Holiday Party
1:00 Session
4:00 Handbell Choir Rehearsal

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, no matter how estranged or close that relationship may be.

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

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Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!

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