



**THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 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

“Mercy is the window of opportunity in which we can change before it is too late.”

— John Dominic Crossan

OPENING VOLUNTARY                      Pastorale in F Major, BWV 590

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Dave & Scott McGinnis

L: We light this candle in joy.

Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation

because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

God of joy,

you are our salvation;

we trust in you and are not afraid.

Lead us to draw water with rejoicing

from the springs of salvation.

**P: God of promise, God of joy,  
into our darkness come.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP      The Candle of Hope, verse 3

## The Candle of Hope

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.  
 for God loves us at so work much, God to do a new thing,  
 tells out the good news that God that God has come 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 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.

Biblical References: Hope: Matt. 24:36-44, Mark 13:24-37; Peace: Isa. 11:1-10, Luke 1:68-79, Isa. 2:4; Joy: Luke 1:46b-55;  
 Love: John 3:16-17, Luke 1:26-38, Matt. 1:18-25; Christ: Luke 2:1-20, John 1:1-14, Titus 3:4-7  
 Tune: LYONS 10.10.11.11 ("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"); Joseph Martin Kraus, 1784.  
 Alternate Tune: HANOVER ("Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"); attr. William Croft, 1708.  
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\*HYMN #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Psalm 126:1, 4

Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships.  
But God is able to restore us.  
Like water coursing through a desert,  
the waters of baptism flow through us,  
reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to new life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Isaiah 61:8, 11; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20; John 3:19

Merciful God, you love justice;  
why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing?  
You have given us the gift of your Spirit;  
why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?  
You have given us the words of the prophets  
and the Word himself;  
why, then, do we ignore what we have heard from you?  
You have sent the light into the world;  
why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?  
Forgive us. Restore us.  
Till and tend us as your garden  
until righteousness and praise spring up,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.  
Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE based on Psalm 126:3, 6

L: In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!  
Even if we have gone out in tears,  
God brings us home shouting for joy.  
P: **Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!**  
L: And as God's joyful people,  
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)

Holy One, giver of life and light,  
as your word is read and proclaimed, light up our hearts and minds,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
our lives may reflect God's glory. 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

Psalm 126 (antiphonally)

THE MESSAGE, alt.

left side reads **bold**, right side reads *italics*

It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,  
when God returned Zion's exiles.

*We laughed, we sang,  
we couldn't believe our good fortune.*

*continued*



Make the brokenhearted whole again;  
comfort those who mourn;  
repair our ruined cities.

In all the jostling and jingling of these days,  
do not let us lose sight of you  
or those whom you especially came to serve:  
people who are in need of healing,  
people who are overlooked or underserved,  
the ones who are lost,  
and the ones we have made to feel little and least.

And may your face shine on those we name now,  
those whose conditions or circumstances have moved us to compassion.

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

Light of the world,  
live among us always,  
full of grace and truth.

And hear us as we speak grace and truth saying:

**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

Cary Gibson

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright;  
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned,  
Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying round Thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding, hark, what peaceful music rings;  
Where the flock, in Thee confiding, drink of joy from deathless springs.  
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure; theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.  
Thou dost ever lead Thine own in the love of joys unknown.

Robert Bridges

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 1Thessalonians 5:18, 23

Gracious God,

teach us to give thanks in all circumstances,  
for you are always with us.

Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others,  
of giving ourselves away in love,  
and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.

With our whole being, spirit and soul and body,  
we rejoice in you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

\*HYMN #136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on *Herr Christ, der einge Gottes Sohn* J.S. Bach



## “We Can’t Sit On Fences”



1. We can't sit on fen - ces, O God, you have told us. We can't just as -  
 2. We point past our - selves and we point to an - oth - er; we're called to bear



sume that both sides are the same. In Christ, you have saved us; in Christ, you still  
 wit - ness to Je - sus your Son. For just as John came here to bap - tize with



hold us; you call us to live thank - ful lives in your name. You scat - ter the  
 wa - ter, he poin - ted to Je - sus, a much great - er One. Christ came bring - ing



proud and you bring down the might - y. You lift up the low - ly; the  
 hope for the ones in op - pres - sion; he bound up the bro - ken, freed



hun - gry have food. The rich and the haugh - ty are sent a - way  
 pris - oners for you! He brought in the jus - tice and love of - your



emp - ty; we can't sit on fen - ces! May we seek the good.  
 king - dom; we can't sit on fen - ces; there's work here to do.

Biblical References: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28; and Luke 1:46b-55  
 Tune: ASH GROVE (“Let All Things Now Living”) 6.6.11.6.6.11 D, traditional Welsh melody  
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Flowers for today’s service were donated by  
 Irene and Ridley Wills in memory of Jesse Wills II.

## Lessons & Carols Thank You

Thank you to everyone making Lessons & Carols successful this year. From the early morning setup crew to the readers, Lessons & Carols involves many dedicated individuals making this annual service distinctive to DPC. Special thanks to Nina Cardona for shoring up the JuveNiles robes and Dixie Williamson and Edward Cardona for their continued commitment to the JuveNiles.

*Today's cover image is by artist-in-residence, Megan Lightell.*

This image came to mind as I read the passages from **Isaiah 61 (1-4 and 8-11)** which are rich with metaphor with the reference to the "oaks of righteousness" and verse 11" **For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.**" The symbolism of trees has always resonated with me as a reminder of the spirit: strong and flexible, full of life, growth, and hope.

## Waffle Shop and Tuba Christmas Updates

Waffle Shop, which was held on December 7, and Tuba Christmas, which was at First Baptist on December 12 are more than just wonderful community events. They are also significant fundraisers for DPC's ministries to Nashville's homeless and urban poor community.

This year Waffle Shop netted approximately \$5000 and Tuba Christmas offerings exceeded \$4000!

In this season of giving, we are so grateful for such generosity!

## *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!

## 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:92, Children:11

#### Visitors and Tourists

147 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

### Schedule of Weekly Events

#### Today

- 12:15 Youth Holiday Party
- 12:30 Session – Parlor 2
- 4:00 Handbell Choir Rehearsal

#### Monday, December 18

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Tuesday, December 19

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Wednesday, December 20

#### Thursday, December 21

- 11:30 AA Meeting—Parlor 2

#### Friday, December 22

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

#### Saturday, December 23

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

#### Sunday, December 24

- 9:45 Christian Education
- 9:30 Adult choir rehearsal
- 11:00 Worship – Lessons & Carols
- 6:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

#### Monday, December 25

- 10:00 Christmas Day Worship – The Chapel

## 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**  
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*Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!*

Check us out at: [www.dpchurch.com](http://www.dpchurch.com)  
or scan this QR code

