



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 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

“Not going home is already like death.”

– E. Catherine Tolbert

OPENING VOLUNTARY Pastoral Symphony, from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Rachel Hayes and Holly Kellar

L: We light this candle in hope.

“God will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end
so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(1 Corinthians 1:8)

God of hope,

out of death you bring life.

Renew us in hope, so that we may be alert

to the dawning of Christ's advent among us.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Candle of Hope, verse 1

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 so much, God to do a new thing,
tells out the good news 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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*OPENING HYMN

When Nations Turn Toward Trouble

1. When na - tions turn toward trou - ble and hope seems all but gone,
 2. Tear o - pen wide your heav - ens; bring down your might - y throne!
 3. Christ, may we learn the les - son that you are com - ing here,
 4. May Chris - tians march for jus - tice, may peace prayers fill the streets,

when threats and con - flicts dou - ble, what can we count up - on?
 Shake up the high - est moun - tains and make your pres - ence known—
 for just as fig trees in blos - som we know that sum - mer's near.
 may chur - ches put in prac - tice the Christ - like ways we teach,

When truth be - comes dis - tort - ed and love is pushed a - side,
 till jus - tice flows like wa - ter, till rul - ers hum - bly pray,
 Like guards re - main - ing watch - ful all night, un - til the dawn,
 may we op - pose what's hate - ful and stand for what is true—

when ha - tred is sup - port - ed, God, o - pen heav - en wide!
 till all know you're the pot - ter, till all know we are clay.
 may we who love the gos - pel find strength to car - ry on.
 and so may we be watch - ful as we wait here for you.

Biblical References: Isaiah 64:1–9 and Mark 13:24–37

Tune: LLANGLOFFAN (“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”) 7.6.7.6 D.

Welsh Folk Melody. Evans’ *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865 as in *English Hymnal*, 1906

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Kim McMullin

Advent is the season
of preparing, of waiting, of hoping.
So let us confess to the One who comes, our haste, our
impatience, our hopelessness, as we pray, saying...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Mark 13:27-37

Merciful God,
we confess that we become distracted,
even weary, in our discipleship.
We keep busy schedules; we rush about.
Captivated by technology,
seduced by the lure of consumer goods,
we do not remain alert to your divine presence
in our lives, in the church, in the world.
Make us better doorkeepers of our lives,
watching for you attentively.
Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace,
so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates.
Be gracious toward us, we pray,
until we are gathered, from the ends of earth
to the ends of heaven, into your embrace.
We pray in the name of Christ,
who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope,
and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

P: Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child,
who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory! Amen.

L: And as people of hope and joy, let us make it visible;
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, 64:4; Mark 13:30-35

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away,
but your words will not pass away:
Your Word stands forever.
May our generation be attentive
so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we remember your ways and gladly do right,
meeting you wherever and whenever you appear.
In Christ's name we pray. 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 64:1-9 (OT p.694)

L: The Word of the Lord P: Thanks be to God

NEW TESTAMENT READING Mark 13:24-37 (NT p.50)

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

SERMON

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #384

"Soon and Very Soon"

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

based on Psalm 80:3-19; Isaiah 64:3-9; Mark 13:26,33

God of power and glory,

we remember your wondrous deeds across the ages —
the times you saved us and brought us home.

Yet, we also remember times when we felt alone and afraid.

O God, we are your people, the work of your hand.

Look upon us with your shining face, especially in the time of need.

We pray for

those who look to you for healing and hope . . .
those who are sick or recuperating from illness and injury . . .
those who are lonely and need companionship and care . . .
those for whom the holidays bring sorrow or pain . . .
those whose deep sadness overshadows joy.

Let your face shine upon us, O God.

We pray for people in need of restoration and reconciliation:

for those battling addictions and those in recovery . . .
for people estranged from those they love . . .
for someone lost in grief . . .
for someone far from home.

Let your face shine upon us, O God, that we might be saved.

Renew the spirit of a world grown weary with waiting and hoping.

Especially we pray for wars to end,

for hunger and poverty to be crowded out by abundance.

And we pray, too, for the church

because we also grow weary in our waiting and watching
for your power and glory to be made known.

Let your face shine upon us, O God,

as we offer our individual prayers . . .

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

Grant us clarity, passion, and true fellowship

so that we are awake to your presence.

Let your face shine upon the church

and all this weary world, we pray;
in the name of the One born in a manger
and coming again.

Let your face shine upon us O God,
as we once again pray with anticipation:

**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 Jack Henderson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The People That Walked in Darkness, from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined

Isaiah 9:2

Jeffrey Williams, baritone

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 1 Corinthians 1:5-8

Faithful God,

**we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place
until he comes again in the fullness of glory.**

Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts;

increase generosity in us, we pray,

as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (people read bold)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We praise you, living loving God,

that you have sent your Son into this world.

Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation,

our lawgiver burning with justice,

the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots,

the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

And let the people cry,

O come and saves us:

O come and save us.

We praise you, serving and saving God,

that you send your Son also to this table,

who on the night he was betrayed took bread ...

[the pastor continues]

And let the people cry,

O come and saves us:

O come and save us.

We beg you, powerful and merciful God:

send us the Spirit of your Son.

Bless this food and all who share it,

that the earth may rejoice in your presence.

In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world,
and dwell among us, Emmanuel,
our deepest desire now and forever.
And let the people cry,
O come and save us:
O come and save us.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.
And let the people pray:
Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let these gifts to us be blessed.
Blest be God, who is our Bread;
may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Christ is host of this table. Everyone, without exception, is welcome. We will receive the Lord's Supper by coming forward and dipping a piece of bread into the cup. Please eat as you are served.

COMMUNION ANTHEM Lo, He Comes, With Clouds Descending
David Johnson

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending, swell the great and joyful strain
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign

Yea, Amen, let all adore Thee, seated on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom Thine to own.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone.

– Charles Wesley

We Bear God's Word Into the World

*HYMN #105

“People, Look East”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Processional

G.F. Handel

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

Today's Eucharistic Prayer was written by Gail Ramshaw, who studies and crafts liturgical language from her home in Philadelphia. It is based on the O Antiphons, an ancient liturgy that used Old Testament images as descriptors of Christ.

The hymns The Candle of Hope and When Nations Turn Toward Trouble 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.

Today's cover image is by artist-in-residence, Cary Gibson.

In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. - Mark 13:29 (Common English Bible)

Mark 13 is full of apocalyptic signs and urgent words. Read literally, it's unsettling, and read metaphorically it's... mystifying. Perhaps I was drawn to the down-to-earth image of the door in today's gospel reading because I'm searching for a relatable message for our own community in DPC in the here and now. Yet even this unassuming doorway in the heart of our building ceases to be ordinary the moment you open it and glimpse what lies beyond the threshold.

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!

Waffle Shop Pizza Party & Work Day!

Come join us today!!! Immediately after worship there will be a pizza party and work day from noon till 3:00pm to set up tables and decorate for Waffle Shop. Waffle Shop is Thursday, December 7. Lots of help is needed and sign-up sheets are in the narthex!

*****Donations for Gift Shop*****

If you would like to donate baked goods, crafts, or other items to sell in the 92nd Annual Waffle Shop Gift Shop please contact JoAnn Byl at 615-478-2436 or email joannbyl@comcast.net.

Thank you for your continued support!

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!

Andrew Bird in Concert at DPC

Andrew Bird debuts his intimate *Gezelligheid* performances in Nashville this winter for a two-night residency at DPC on Friday and Saturday, December 8 & 9. Appropriating a Dutch term that loosely translates to cozy, the performances concentrate mainly on instrumental violin pieces amplified only by his signature giant Victrola horns.

Bird notes, "What I hope to do with these shows is adapt my music completely to the atmosphere of the space and the season. I want the audience to be both lifted and comforted as we head into another cold and dark winter. I feel the space should be sacred so the audience can experience my music in a different atmosphere."

Go to andrewbird.net for more information and tickets. Note: the December 9 show is already sold out!

Downtown Presbyterian's Family Breakfast

Sunday, December 17 at 9:15 am, DPC's famous Christmas Breakfast Casseroles will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a fun DPC family breakfast!

DPC Book Group



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!

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
- Gloves, hats, and scarves
- Sample Size Toiletries
- WINTER COATS!

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!

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:57, Children:9

Visitors and Tourists

26 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

- 12:15 Waffle Shop Pizza Party & Work Session
4:00 Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 4

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 1

Tuesday, December 5

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 1

Wednesday, December 6

Thursday, December 7

- 11:00 Waffle Shop

Friday, December 8

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 1

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10

- 9:00 Juveniles rehearsal
9:45 Christian Education
9:45 Adult choir rehearsal
11:00 Worship – Lessons & Carols
12:00 Congregational Meeting to Elect Ruling Elders

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. Where God's love is, there is no shame.

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
or scan this QR code

