

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 22, 2018

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

The worst thing you can imagine has already
Zipped up its coat and is heading back
Up the road to wherever it came from.

— poet Tracy K. Smith from “Life on Mars”

OPENING VOLUNTARY Prelude on *Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Hymn #11

L: God is Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud;

P: because no single name proclaims the whole truth of
our Creator.

L: God is Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine;

P: because no single name proclaims the whole truth of
Jesus, the Christ.

L: God is Storm and Stillness, Breath and Dove;

P: because no single name proclaims the whole truth of
The Holy Spirit.

Let us worship God,

who is more than we can name or imagine!

***HYMN #11** “Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud”

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Psalm 23

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living;
aware of all the shadowed valleys we wander;
remembering how we have failed to place our trust in God -
how can we not come to God with our confessions?
Let us join together, praying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Psalm 23

Comfort of your people:

**We confess the emptiness of our souls which sends us searching
for all those things which cannot nourish us.**

**Our restless longing for the goods of the world
fills us with envy and desire.**

**Our belief that still waters are stagnant causes us to thirst for
whitewater thrills and adventures.**

**Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from
the shelter you offer to us.**

Forgive us, Goodness Incarnate.

**Call us back from our wayward lives,
so we may find rest in the stillness of your gentle heart;
we may find healing from your scarred hands;
we may find that life for which we yearn,
together in you and through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

(Time for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

based on Psalm 23

L: This is the good news:

**God will walk with us in every moment,
God will fill us with goodness and mercy,
God will bring us home to live forever.**

**P: Anointed with grace and forgiveness,
our lives overflow with love for all people.**

**L: So let that love spill out
as we exchange signs of friendship and reconciliation.
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 Psalm 23:3, 6; John 10:16

Good Shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit,
help us to listen for your voice
and follow in your paths
all the days of our lives;
in Jesus's name. 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 23, CEB, alt. (antiphonally)

Right side reads **bold**, left side reads *italics*

Oh LORD, you are our shepherd.
We lack nothing.
You let us rest in grassy meadows;
You lead us to restful waters;
You keep us alive.

continued...

*You guide us in proper paths
for the sake of your good name.
Even when we walk through the darkest valley,
we fear no danger because you are with us.
Your rod and your staff—
they protect us.
You set a table for us
right in front of our enemies.
You bathe our heads in oil;
our cups are so full they spill over!
Yes, goodness and faithful love
will pursue us all the days of our lives,
and we will live in your house as long as we live.*

SECOND READING John 10:11-18 (NT p. 103)
L: The gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. P: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

SERMON The Pretty Good Shepherd Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #187 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

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

based on Psalm 23:6;1 John 3:21-24

With boldness, let us offer our prayers
to the shepherd of our souls, saying,
God of goodness and mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the church in every place. . . .
[Here you may pray aloud for church and religious communities, including
our own.]

Gather us together and make us one,
one in ministry and mission to the world,
so that there might be one flock, one shepherd.
God of goodness and mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world. . . .
*[Here you may pray aloud for particular countries,
international circumstances and leaders.]*
Anoint all leaders with your wisdom
so that they will use their power
to help the poor and defend the vulnerable.
God of goodness and mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this church community. . . .
[Here you may pray aloud for people in difficult circumstances]
Strengthen those who work
to heal the sick, welcome the outcasts,
and help sisters and brothers in need.
God of goodness and mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for friends and loved ones. . . .
[Here you may pray aloud for those who are sick or injured.]
Comfort all who are suffering;
walk with them through dark valleys
and restore them, body, mind, and soul.
God of goodness and mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, by the power of your Spirit,
help us to keep your commandments
and to love one another with the love of Jesus,
who offered this prayer,

continued...

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 If Ye Love Me Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter,
that He may abide with you forever,
E'en the Spirit of Truth, and ye know Him,
for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

— Anthem text taken from John 14:15-18

DOXOLOGY #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (unison)

As we offer our gifts to you, Gentle Shepherd,
may we lay down our prejudices towards others,
so they might find a welcome in our hearts.
May we set aside our fears of the future,
so you might lead us into *your* future
May we become the goodness and mercy
for which others have been looking all their lives.
This we pray in Jesus's name, Amen.

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

*HYMN #353 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude Pomposo

George Blake

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!

Children and Worship

Note to Parents of Small Children: 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.

Saturday Breakfast Ministry Meeting

Next Sunday, April 29, we'll have an organizational meeting of the Saturday Breakfast and Clothes Closet team. Ruling Elder Vickie Coffin, chair of the Outreach Committee will chair the meeting and act as liaison between the Saturday team and the session.

This meeting is for anyone - long time volunteers and newcomers - interested in our Saturday ministry. We're especially looking for some new folks to serve as Saturday morning coordinators.

We'll gather right after worship in Fellowship Hall (leaving a little time for you to go get some lunch if you'd like).

New Adult Education Experience **Living the Questions**



Many people have an intuitive sense that there is more to Christianity than the rigid rules and shallow platitudes that so often pass for theology in many churches. *Living the Questions* hopes to expose people to ideas and concepts that have been taught and discussed in seminaries, but sometimes not in our churches. So if you've ever found yourself puzzled by or disillusioned about religion this may be a dialogue you might like to join.

We're meeting at 9:45 a.m. in Parlor 2 for the next four weeks. Each session includes a video presentation and a written lesson; all materials will be provided.

Video presenters include some of the leading voices in progressive Christianity including Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Amy-Jill Levine, John Bell, Helen Prejean, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and many more.

DPC moderators for our sessions will include Rev. Mike Wilson, Jim Dickson, David Maddox and Samera Zavarro.

Please join us!

The DPC Website

Have you visited our website recently? If you haven't you're missing a chance to go deeper into the life of the church and catch up things you might have missed. Our homepage always has our latest news and events including information about small groups, special worship experiences, art shows and concerts, mission opportunities and more.

There are several menu bar selections that open you to the history of the church, staff and elder bios and pictures, worship information, the event calendar, details on our Artist-in-Residence and Composer-in-Residence programs, mission projects, and wedding rental info...just to name a few things.

Of particular interest is the "media" menu. Here you can find audio of Sunday sermons, the latest church bulletin, session minutes and reports, a blog written by various DPC members and friends, and an expanding selection of other video and audio recordings.

The DPC website is dynamic and always changing. And everyone - longtime members *and* people who have never visited - will find something interesting, informative or fun.

And the site is easy to remember: www.dpchurch.com

Or you can use the QR code on the back of the bulletin to get you there. We hope you'll visit soon and often!

Electronic Giving!

Want an easy way to donate to DPC? Just text "**dpchurch**" 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!

Leadership Training

Generations, Relationships, Christ: Getting Along, Discovering Gifts, Equipping Leaders

GenOn Ministries' training to empower leaders

Saturday, June 9 8:30 am - 12:15 p.m.

Second Presbyterian Church

What can every church learn from GenOn Ministries' 50+ years of ministry?

- That treating each other as a child of God helps us all to get along and that spreads way beyond the church
- That God gives gifts to everyone to use in building up the church
- That equipping and empowering leaders is Kingdom living
- That setting goals is paramount to moving forward in ministry

GenOn Ministries wants to teach your church what we know. Join Suzie Lane for this Saturday morning training where participants will understand Christ-centered relationships, learn ways to help others discern their gifts, discover effective ways to equip and empower leaders, and leave with plans to put new learnings into practice immediately. *Generations, Relationships, Christ* is perfect for elders, deacons, committee moderators and members, Sunday school teachers and leaders, other church leaders, and anyone who has been recognized as a potential leader.

Registration is covered by the church. To attend, contact Mike Wilson.

Volunteers Needed for Saturday Breakfast

Every Saturday morning DPC opens its doors to Nashville's homeless and urban poor community to provide hot, nutritious meals in a warm, inviting space.

Volunteers from DPC are welcome EVERY Saturday. We want to enlarge our pool of experienced DPC hosts for those Saturdays when other churches and organizations are sending volunteers.

Go here to sign up for any Saturday and to see who else is coming: <https://goo.gl/yQi9wA>

We provide complimentary parking for all volunteers.

If you can volunteer, please respond to dpcbreakfast@gmail.com.

Clothes Closet Help!

We maintain a clothes closet to help our homeless and urban poor guests on Saturday morning. We are currently in need of the following items.

- 1) JEANS for Men and Women - all sizes
- 2) SOCKS for Men and Women - **New Only**
- 3) UNDERWEAR for Men and Women - **New Only**

Thank you for your support!

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

118 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on April 14.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:73, Children:9

Visitors and Tourists

26 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

Monday, April 23

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, April 24

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

Wednesday, April 25

Thursday, April 26

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, April 27

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, April 28

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

Sunday, April 29

9:00 Juveniles Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Choir rehearsal

9:45 Christian Education

11:00 Worship - the Sanctuary

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 2018

Rev. Mike Wilson, Moderator

Jack Henderson, Clerk

Jeff Koontz, Treasurer

Class of 2018

Cary Gibson
Michael Korak
Jim Dickson

Class of 2019

Chuck Cardona
Jack Henderson
Justin Near

Class of 2020

Dave Coleman
Debra Gentry
Vickie Coffin

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

