

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 6, 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

Vagueness is at times an indication of nearness to a perfect truth.

— Charles Ives, American composer (1874-1954)

OPENING VOLUNTARY Voluntary in G, Op. VII, no.9 Charles J. Stanley

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

based on Psalm 98

L: We gather to worship the One
who crafted creation out of chaos,

P: **our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.**

L: We gather to lift our praise
to the God who gives us voice,

P: **we bring the songs which have echoed
in our hearts all week long.**

L: We gather as the children of God,
our joy unbroken in God's love.

P: **Young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched
lift the new, new songs of faith.**

***HYMN #396**

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Psalm 98

Beautiful music, every note perfect, joining together in graceful harmony
- this is what we imagine our lives to be.
Yet our love can be a little flat, our anger often sharp.
Let us confess how we struggle to keep the measured beat
of God's life-giving melody in our lives,
even as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Psalm 98

**Joy-giving God, we know who we are:
people who hear the harmony of your grace and love in our souls,
but sing off-key so often.
We want to learn new songs,
but those haunting tunes of our past mistakes run through our heads.
We long to make a joyful noise to you,
but the hurts inflicted on us, and the pain we have caused others,
silence our voices.**

**Sing to us, Conductor of Grace:
sing of your forgiveness, your hope, your love for us.
Strike a chord of humility in our hearts
so our eyes can see all you have done for us;
and in seeing, we might believe how much you love us;
and in believing, we will echo that new song
of hope and life composed through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.**

(Time for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

based on Psalm 98

L: Listen to the melody of the good news:
Christ is risen, bringing joy into the world.
The One who was dead now lives,
and wraps us in the delight of life forever with our God.

continued...

**P: Now, our dirges have turned to joy;
our requiem has been rearranged as a hymn of hope;
our laments are lost in a cantata of praise.**

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Amen.

**L: Now, as people infused with the music of resurrection,
let us dance to our neighbors
with 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 John 15:11-12

As we listen to Psalmist and Savior speaking to us through scripture and are attentive to the word proclaimed, may we be filled with Christ's joy and respond in love. 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.)***

***FIRST READING** Psalm 98, CEB, alt. (antiphonally)

THE MESSAGE, alt.

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

Sing to the LORD a new song

because God has done wonderful things!

*God's own strong hand and God's own holy arm
have won the victory!*

The Lord has made Salvation widely known;

God has revealed Righteousness

in the eyes of all the nations.

God has remembered Loyal Love

and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation.

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!

Be happy!

Rejoice out loud!

Sing your praises!

Sing your praises to the LORD with the lyre—

with the lyre and the sound of music.

With trumpets and a horn blast,

shout triumphantly before the LORD!

Let the sea and everything in it roar;

the world and all its inhabitants too.

Let all the rivers clap their hands;

let the mountains rejoice out loud altogether before the LORD

because God is coming to establish justice on the earth!

God will establish justice in the world rightly;

God will establish justice among all people fairly.

SECOND READING

John 15:9-17

(NT p. 109)

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 #515

“I Come with Joy”

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

based on Psalm 98:1-9; John 15:15-16; Acts 10:45

In the silence following each petition you may say aloud your individual prayers.

We sing for joy, O God,
for you are coming to judge the world
with righteousness and fairness between nations and between people.

We pray for the poor and the desperate
as well as for those who abuse and oppress them,
Comfort those who suffer
and chasten those who cause their suffering,
that your justice may be known in all the earth.

[*Silence*]

We pray for families, communities, and nations torn apart by violence.
Heal the broken places and imbue your earth with peace.

[*Silence*]

We pray for the sick and the dying,
for those who are friendless and lonely,
for those living with grief or depression.
Bring them your friendship and renew their joy.

[*Silence*]

We pray for ourselves, your church,
that we may bear fruit of peace, hope, and love,
fruit that will last.

[*Silence*]

continued...

Now in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our friend,
and in the Holy Spirit poured out on us,
we offer this ancient prayer as if we were singing it for the first time:

**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.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Monroe Harding

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROUS GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Eyes for Beauty Pine

Herbert Howells

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for Goddës grace:
No other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face.

One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above:
'Tis named when God's name is said, 'tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.

And every gentle heart that burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.
Robert Bridges

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) based on John 15:15-16

**Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends
and to know your will in the world.
Therefore we pray in Jesus's name that these offerings
might spread your love near and far. Amen.**

We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts

L: May the God of creation's choruses be with you!

P: And also with you!

L: God sings of hope and grace to your hearts, people of God!

P: We open them to be filled with the wonder of love.

L: God welcomes your songs of praise and joy.

P: We lift our hearts and voices in thanksgiving to the composer of all!

Maestro of the Universe:

the song began low and quiet, barely disturbing chaos,
But then it slowly grew in tempo
as you beat out the rhythm of creation –
light, sharp and clear, like the blast of a trumpet;
the hills and valleys bursting forth like the beat of the timpani;
water running clear and free like arpeggios on a piano.
You composed all this, and more,
for those created in your image, and filled with the music of your heart.
We thought your tunes burdensome,
and turned our ears to the discords of selfishness, temptation, and death.
You wrote new tunes,
to the same words of hope and promise,
sending the prophets to play them in the streets where we wandered.
But we continued to dance to the music only we could hear.
So you sent Jesus to us,
loving us enough to send us the very One who could bring us home.

So, with those who have sung the song
of grace and hope in every time and place,
and with all who are just learning the words,
we lift our voices in praise to you:

P: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of beauty and joy.

All the ends of the earth sing praises to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to sing a new song.

Hosanna in the highest!

continued...

Holiness is the melody of who you are, Gentle God,
and blessed is the Song of your heart, Jesus Christ.

As he loved you, so he loved us:

keeping your word close in his heart,

he came singing of your gracious love;

abiding in your promises of hope,

he came bringing the harmony of peace for our fragmented lives;

coming to judge the world with righteousness,

he laid down his life for his friends;

trusting and believing that the funeral dirges they sang on that sad Friday,

would be rearranged as Easter cantatas

on that first morning of the new creation.

As we remember his life, death and resurrection,
as we seek to follow his command to love,
we sing of that mystery we call faith:

**P: The Singer was not silenced by death;
the Singer was raised to new life;
the Singer will come to lead us home to God.**

Pour out your joyful Spirit

upon the gifts of the bread and the cup

and on your children gathered at your feast.

We would open our hearts to receive the bread of life,

not with silenced gratitude,

but with glad songs of joy.

We would empty ourselves to be filled with the cup's compassion,

not with speechless thanks

but with shouts of praise.

As we learn the new song of sacrifice on behalf of others,

we would go to serve the brokenhearted.

As we are given the instruments of praise,

we would turn them into the means

to transform the lives of the hungry,

the homeless, the forgotten, the outcast.

And when our music has ended,
and there is only the plainsong of life forever
in the tender embrace of your peace,
we will gather at the Table once again,
hands and hearts, brothers and sisters,
joining in the never-ending praise to you,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

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.

ANTHEM DURING COMMUNION

Wondrous Love

Paul Christiansen

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, that caused the Lord of life to bear the heavy cross, what
wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this,
O my soul, that Christ should lay aside His crown for my soul! What wondrous
love is this, O my soul!

Eric Near, tenor

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Bear God's Word Into the World

*HYMN #465

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Processional

G.F. Handel

Monroe Harding

Since 1893, Monroe Harding has continually adapted to meet the needs of children who are in, or are transitioning out of state custody, caring for more than 16,000 children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected. Today, we are a healing community for youth and families as they move beyond trauma to experience hope. We are meeting this mission through four key programs serving young people who are currently in or transitioning from the foster care system: Foster Care, Residential Programs, Education and Workforce Development and Therapy and Healing.

Speaker Leah Susi

Leah has been with Monroe Harding for two years and serves as the Engagement Manager. Her role is to connect potential volunteers, donors and churches to opportunities of engagement within Monroe Harding. She also oversees the Foster Care recruitment team that recruits all of our Foster Parents. Her passion for supporting staff and foster families by making connections and sharing the story of the needs of our youth and families is what keeps her connected to the mission.

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!

Congregational Meeting Today

Today, there will be a short congregational meeting immediately after worship for the sole purpose of electing three at-large members to the 2018 Nominating Committee. The slate on nominees secured by the current Nominating Committee includes Claire Armbruster, Nina Cardona and Jim Hoobler.

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!

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.

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 two 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 include Rev. Mike Wilson, Jim Dickson, David Maddox and Samera Zavaro.

Please join us!

2018 Graduation Recognition

On Sunday, May 13, we will recognize this year's graduates in worship. If you have a child or grandchild graduating OR you yourself are graduating, please send the following information to the church office (info@dpchurch.com or 615-254-7584) by **MAY 7**:

- ◆ graduate's name
- ◆ school they are graduating from
- ◆ degree (for college graduates)
- ◆ upcoming plans

The DPC Website

Have you visited *dpchurch.com* 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.

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!

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.

Pentecost Hymn Challenge

On Pentecost Sunday, May 20, we're going to feature the well-known hymn Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (#475 in our hymnal) sung to accompaniment in multiple styles and varying instrumentation. The problem is that there are only three verses in our hymnal. So we're inviting *you* to write new verses to this old hymn!

A quick internet search will bring up many different versions of Come, Thou Fount and you'll find plenty of inspiration. And just to show you what's possible, here's a new verse written by Eric Near:

Let us welcome everybody
Sharing peace with grace and love
We are called to grow together
Doing justice from above.
Called to seek God's true communion
With diverse and varied lives
Telling tales of joy and struggle
Caring for a world that thrives.

Eric took his inspiration from our values and ethos statement on the back of the bulletin. We are eager to see what *you* come up with.

We will make sure that your new verses are sung on Pentecost! Send your work to:
mikewilson@dpchurch.com

First Sunday Lunch Meet-up

DPC's First Sunday Lunch Meet-up is trying a new place! Join us today, May 6, right after worship, at **417 Union** for delicious food and a new experience.



417 Union is located at 417 Union Street, and is less than a five minute walk from the 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.

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

151 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on April 28.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:73, Children:7

Visitors and Tourists

42 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

- 12:00 Congregational Meeting
- Fellowship Hall
12:30 First Sunday Lunch Meetup
- 417 Union

Monday, May 7

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, May 8

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2
12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

Wednesday, May 9

Thursday, May 10

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, May 11

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, May 12

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

Sunday, May 13

- 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, Maintenance 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

