

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 17, 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 woods and pasture are joyous
in their abundance now
in a season of warmth and much rain...
Who now can believe in winter? In winter
who could have hoped for this?

— From "Sabbaths IV," by Wendell Berry

OPENING VOLUNTARY Prelude in Classic Style Gordon Young

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Ezekiel 17:22-24; Mark 4:27-32

L: Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar:

P: The kingdom of God is growing.

L: While we sleep and rise night and day:

P: The kingdom of God is growing.

L: The low are brought high; the high are brought low:

**P: The kingdom of God is growing,
its large branches are home to all kinds of people!**

*HYMN #36 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

God longs for us to be reconciled with God and with each other.
We can offer our confession, then, in honesty, humility, and hope.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Mark 4:31-32; 2 Cor. 5:18

Gracious God,

we so often miss your kingdom at work among us.

We overlook the mustard seeds you have planted all around.

Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work.

Forgive us when we work against your plans and purposes –

fostering divisions when you have called us

to a ministry of reconciliation;

building walls to keep people out when your branches

offer generous nests.

Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray,

so that we might reach our fullest height of faith.

(Time for silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE**

based on 2 Cor. 5:17-20

L: Everyone who is in Christ

is part of the new creation.

The old things have gone away, and look,

new things have arrived!

Trusting that right now we are - all of us - brand new people,

let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Pease return to your seats when the music begins

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

based on 2 Corinthians 5:7; Jude 24

Illuminating God,
we walk by faith and not by sight.
So guide our steps in your Word today that,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we are kept from falling
and find our way in your way.
Through Christ, 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.)*

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 7:22-24

(OT p.774)

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

SECOND READING

Mark 4:26-34

(NT p.38)

L: The Gospel of our Lord. P: Glory to you, O Lord.

SERMON

Waiting in Hope

Rev. Janet Salyer

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #171

"A Sower Came from Ancient Hills"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

& THE LORD'S PRAYER (people read **bold**)

based on Ezekiel 17; 2 Cor. 5:18-20

God of all nations,
we trust that you are moving all history
toward your good purposes and plans.

Though nations wield economic, political, and military power
that seems to rule the day,
we trust that you are stronger still.

We are confident that our systems of
domination and injustice
are ultimately doomed to failure.

We pray, then, for oppression to come to an end
and for injustice to cease,
so that people everywhere may live in peace and dignity.

We pray for all those who sit in the seats of power
to learn your ways of mercy and kindness.

In our community, teach us to work together
for the common good, caring for our neighbors
and growing in understanding across every divide.

Gracious God,
we know that you are at work
among the least, the lost, and the last,
in the things that are unseen,
and that your heavenly reign does not swagger or boast,
but is subtle —
coming among us in uncommon and often unnoticed ways.

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear
how and where you are moving and changing all things.

Help us to look for your kingdom
with special attention on those who are most vulnerable among us,
to seek you at the margins among those overlooked or ostracized.

Humble us so that we can learn
from those who are meek in all the earth.

Life-giving God,

when our lives are dry and brittle,
we trust that you can restore us to life,
making us green again and fruitful.

For anyone living with depression,
chronic pain, or long-term illness,
we ask for your healing and tender care.

For those who have lost employment
or the opportunity to be engaged with others in meaningful service,
we pray for new opportunities to spring up.

For anyone who has come to an ending,
whether sought or undesired,
we pray that a new beginning will open
that promotes new growth and flourishing.

For anyone or any circumstance who has moved us to concern,
we offer these prayers...

[Here you may say aloud your individual prayers and petitions]

Finally, dear God,

no matter how small our faith is,
we pray that you will give us good growth in our discipleship to you
so that we may be faithful ambassadors of Christ,
sharing his love and working for the reconciliation of the world.

And hear us now as we strengthen each other with these words...

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

Pilgrims' Hymn

Stephen Paulus

Even before we call on Thy name to ask Thee, O Lord,
When we seek for the words to glorify Thee, Thou hearest our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe Thy name,
And through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in Thee;
Endless Thy grace, O endless Thy grace, beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and forever, and unto ages and ages,
Amen.

Michael Dennis Browne

*DOXOLOGY #655 "What Shall I Render to the Lord" (verse 1)

What Shall I ren - der to the Lord; what
shall my of - fering be, for all the gra - cious
ben - e - fits God hath be - stowed on me?

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (unison) based on Ezekiel 17:24

**Life-giving God, we know that you will accomplish everything you purpose.
Accept, we pray, these offerings from our hands.
May they contribute to what you are doing so that life may flourish.
In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.**

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

*HYMN #714

"God of the Fertile Fields"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude on *Italian Hymn*
Tune taken from Hymn #714

Gordon Young

Music Note about the Offertory Anthem

Today's anthem was composed by Stephen Paulus, a prolific American composer of over 600 classical works of music. The anthem began as the final chorus of a one-act opera, *The Three Hermits*, which was commissioned by The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN. At the persistence of a colleague, Paulus extracted the final chorus into a choral work. The anthem has now sold over 160,000 copies and has been sung at the funeral services of Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan.

Nashville has many connections with Dr. Paulus. Shortly after Paulus' untimely death in October 2014, the Nashville Symphony recorded a Paulus compendium. The album contained three works entitled *Three Places of Enlightenment*, *Veil of Tears*, and *Grand Concerto for Organ and Orchestra*. In 2016, the Nashville Symphony won a GRAMMY for this recording.

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!

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!

Summer Worship in the Chapel July 1–September 2

Starting on Sunday, July 1, and continuing through September 2, we'll gather for Sunday worship in the Chapel. The Chapel allows us to worship with greater intimacy and gives us the opportunity to do some things with liturgy, narrative, music and art that will be more effective in that space.

One of creative elements the Worship & Arts committee will encourage is congregational participation in crafting liturgy - things like the call to worship, prayer of confession, assurance of pardon and prayers of the people. We'll be creating some guides and resources to help you, and maybe even having a workshop or two. More on that will follow soon.

Our worship will more deliberately focus Mark's gospel following a *lectio continua*, or "continuous reading." Normally Pastor Mike and the Worship & Arts committee follow the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle, as a guide for preaching and our worship. But for our ten weeks in the Chapel, Pastor Mike created a custom lectionary that takes us from Mark 5:21 through Mark 9:29 with almost no omissions. This long section of Mark is almost entirely action with very little sermonizing from Jesus or authorial theologizing. Our broad focus will be on touch, embodiment and movement.

We also have some ideas for participatory and cumulative art projects, drama, movement and more. Again, more info will follow!

The W&A committee is really excited about the possibilities of our summer worship and we hope you all will join us not only with regular attendance but enthusiastic participation.

Singing Workshops July 8 - September 2

Some people think they can't sing or aren't good at it, so they sing timidly or not at all. But the truth is ***everybody can sing***. What they need is encouragement and a few easy-to-learn techniques. Starting on Sunday, July 8, and every Sunday through September 2, our director of music, William Taylor, will supply both in a series of workshops right before worship.

We'll gather in the Chapel at 10:45 to learn how we can sing with greater confidence and enthusiasm and participate even more fully in our worship experience. Even if you think you can't carry a tune in a bucket, join us to discover just how much fun bold congregational song can be. There will be no judgment or singling-out - just big deep breaths and a lot of fun!

Liturgy for Summer Worship

For our summer worship in the Chapel we want to invite you - our DPC members and friends - to contribute to the services by crafting liturgy. And for our purposes you can think of liturgy as those things we say together and the prompts that introduce those elements. So, if you want to try your hand at composing the words and prayers of worship, send an email to Pastor Mike – mikewilson@dpchurch.com – noting which movements and Sundays you'd like to tackle. You can also tell him whether or not you'd be interested in a liturgy workshop or get-together.

Want to know even more? Here are the specific elements of worship you can work on:

- Call to Worship**

An invitation to the congregation to come into God's presence with praise. It reminds us that our worship centers on God and not ourselves.

- Invitation to Confession**

A reminder of *why* we need to offer confession, both individually and as a community.

- Prayer of Confession**

Confessing the truth about ourselves and the ways we have fallen short of both God's and our own best intentions.

- Assurance of Pardon and Passing the Peace**

We are assured that in all things we are loved, forgiven, restored and renewed, and encouraged to share that love with others.

- Prayer for Illumination**

An invitation to God to open our hearts and minds by the power of the Holy Spirit to receive and understand the Word written and proclaimed.

- Prayers of the People**

An opportunity to join together for prayers of petition and joy, with particular attention to world, national, local and personal concerns.

- Prayer of Dedication**

We give thanks for our offerings and pray that they would be used to further reveal God's kingdom.

Pastor Mike is primary responsible for our weekly liturgy and he either selects it from pre-written liturgy sources - books, websites, journals - or writes it himself. Almost always the liturgy is tied to the Revised Common Lectionary that Mike uses for preaching and reflects the lectionary's scripture and themes.

Your liturgical contributions can be for any part of or all of a service and should be tied to the custom lectionary we'll be using for our Chapel worship. (You can get that from Pastor Mike or by emailing Dena in the office: denaswoner@dpchurch.com)

continued next page

A good way to understand how liturgy, theme and scripture tie together is by looking at this bulletin or those on the DPC website. Most movements are accompanied by a note that says “based on...” with scripture verses listed. If you read the passages and then the liturgy you’ll see how the two come together.

And of course, we’ll give full credit each week to everyone who contributes!

Cushions for the Chapel

The cushiness and freshness of the Chapel pew cushions has been questionable for a long time and we thought it best to remove them. So for our summer worship in the Chapel beginning on July 1, we’re inviting all regular attending members and friends to bring a seat cushion for themselves and one extra for a guest. Any single, comfortable cushion will do - just something to make the pews a little more comfortable for you and a friend.

Sunday Morning Christian Education for All Ages

Come join us in Parlor 1 on Sunday mornings at 9:45 for intergenerational Sunday School. Enjoy fellowship, fun, Bible study and food for all ages.
Upcoming scriptures:

- June 24 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- July 1– Mark 5:21-43
- July 8 – Mark 6:1-13

Breakfast snacks are always welcome!

If you'd like more information, contact Suzie at suzielane@dpchurch.com or 615-406-4915.

Children's Musical at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Two of DPC's children - Joshua Bell and Dylan Chang - are in the cast of "Life of the Party," a musical play being presented on Sunday, June 24 at 9:45 am in the fellowship hall. Come see Joshua and Dylan in the performance and return to DPC just in time for worship!

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.

Our Ministries Last Week

Saturday Breakfast Ministry

162 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on June 9.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:48, Children:5

Visitors and Tourists

56 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

Monday, June 18

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, June 19

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

Wednesday, June 20

Thursday, June 21

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, June 22

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, June 23

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

Sunday, June 24

9:30 Adult Choir rehearsal

9:45 Christian Education

11:00 Worship - the Sanctuary

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 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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