



# THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

December 2, 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

Everything will be all right in the end.  
If it's not all right, it is not the end.

— The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

OPENING VOLUNTARY      Pastorale in F Major, BWV 590      J. S. Bach

#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Candle of Creation

L: Looking into the past...*[the leader continues]*...

May the lighting of this first candle of advent remind us of the splendor and divinity of creation and the promise that Christ's birth brought to humanity as the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

**P: Today we give thanks for the light of creation  
that brought forth life, and the light of Christ  
who brought forth hope, love and dignity  
as the foretaste of the Kingdom of God.**

**May this same light shine in our world today,  
and through us at every moment,  
knowing it can never be extinguished.**

**Today, as we anticipate the birth of Christ,  
we also anticipate the dawning of divine light in new ways.**

L: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as of God's light  
that has shined since the dawn of creation  
and onto the promise of the future.

**P: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God’s mercy, let us offer our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

The chances we have to be more compassionate;  
the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend;  
the good fortune we could give to those who have so little.  
The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God,  
of how we fail to live as your people.  
Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love,  
but remember the mercy of your heart.  
That mercy which forgives us;  
that mercy which makes us whole;  
and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago,  
Jesus, the Advent of our redemption.  
Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

based on Luke 21:29-31

L: Raise your heads, children of God!  
In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near.  
In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.  
P: **Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us  
is the salvation promised so long ago.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!**  
L: And as God’s forgiven people,  
let us greet each with springtime joy.  
May the peace of Christ be with you.  
P: And also with you.

\*GLORIA PATRI #92 “While We Are Waiting, Come” (vs. 2)

With power and glo - ry come;  
with power and glo - ry come.  
Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,  
while we are wait - ing, come.

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**God's Word Is Proclaimed**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

based on Psalm 25:1-10

God our salvation,  
there is wisdom, peace, and joy  
for those who keep your Word.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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                      Jeremiah 33:14-16                      (OT p.738)

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

SECOND READING                      Luke 21:35-36                      (NT p.86)

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

SERMON

Mike Wilson

## We Respond to God's Word

\*HYMN #94                      "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

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

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, in your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

Merciful God,  
you call us to goodness and lead us on right paths.  
You encourage us with signs of your coming  
and urge us to keep watch,  
that we might greet you with heads raised high  
when you come to restore all of creation.

Watching and waiting,  
we pray for this world that needs your saving power.

For nations at war ... [*silence*]  
in your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

For all who suffer from violence, in the streets or in their homes... [*silence*]  
in your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

For all who live in worry or fear... [*silence*]  
in your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

For those who have forgotten the ways of righteousness... [*silence*]  
in your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

For those who have never heard of your rescuing love... [*silence*]  
in your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

For all those who have lost hope, or never had it at all... [*silence*]  
in your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

For your church in the world,  
that we may work in confidence for your coming reign... [*silence*]  
in your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

For all those other people or circumstances that have moved us  
to compassion concern or joy.  
*[Here you may say aloud your individual prayers and petitions.]*  
In your mercy,  
**Lord, save us.**

Now by the power of your Holy Spirit, make us ever more faithful,  
that we may greet you in confidence and joy on that great day;  
through Jesus the Christ , who taught us to pray...

**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    Wake, Awake, for the Night is Flying    J. S. Bach

"Wake, awake, for night is flying," the watchmen on the heights are crying,  
"Awake, Jerusalem, at last!"  
Midnight hears the welcome voices and at the thrilling cry rejoices,  
"Come forth, ye virgins, night is past!  
The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!  
And for His feast prepare, for ye must go to meet Him there."

Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing,  
she wakes, she rises from her gloom;  
For her Lord comes down all glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious,  
her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.

"Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son! Hail, Hosanna!  
The joyful call we answer all, and follow to the nuptial hall."

– Philipp Nicolai, 1599; translated by Catherine Winkworth

\*DOXOLOGY

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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)

God of New Beginnings,  
you have promised to redeem the whole creation  
when Christ comes again.  
In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self,  
that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now,  
as we watch for Christ's coming. Amen.

# We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

L: Sisters and brothers, grace and peace be with you now and always.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: (The minister continues, telling of *God, our Creator*)

... In joy, we magnify your name, shouting:

**P: Blessed be the Mighty One who does great things!**

L: (The minister continues, telling of *Christ, our Redeemer*)

... In joy, we magnify your name, shouting:

**P: Blessed be the Mighty One who does great things!**

L: (The minister continues, telling of the *Holy Spirit, our Sustainer*)

...In joy, we magnify your name, shouting:

**P: Blessed be the Mighty One who does great things!**

L: One who is to come, Our Eternal Home,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you for whom we wait,  
Establish justice. Banish hate.  
Reconcile warring nations. Heal your good earth.  
Renew our weak limbs, our despairing hearts, our weary spirits.  
Come among us to save!  
Come among us to inspire!  
Come among us to make all things new!

## 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 #357 "The Days Are Surely Coming"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

J. S. Bach

Chorale Prelude on *Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn*, BWV 601

Translation: *Lord, Christ, the only Son of God*

Today's bulletin cover is by DPC Artist-in-Residence Sarah Shearer.

Our Advent Candle liturgy was written by Scot Robinson,  
our VDS field education student.

### **Congregational Meeting – Today**

There will be a congregational meeting today, immediately after worship, for the sole purpose of electing three ruling elders to the Class of 2021.

Those standing for election are Mary Turner, David Maddox and Jim Hoobler.

Thank you to the nominating committee for identifying three outstanding candidates.

## DPC Children's Advent Play *The Angels' Songs*

The DPC children will present an Advent play in worship on **December 9**. They will tell the stories of angels visiting Zachariah, Mary and Joseph. Make plans to be in worship for this special worship service!

**\*Rehearsal will be Saturday, December 8 from 11:00am - 12:00pm in the Sanctuary.**

### 2018 Advent Candles and Liturgy

This year's Advent Candle themes, liturgy and installation takes their cues from our 2018 Lessons & Carols sequence which in turn was adapted from a scripture collection curated by The Kauri Church in Whangarei, New Zealand. The Kauri Church is a progressive Presbyterian church founded by Scots settlers in the 1854. Their pastor writes that their lessons & carols service "gives an 'history with a thread of meaning'; demonstrating how our faith tradition traces the activity of God's liberating grace through the generations of the earth." "The focus of the story is the incarnation: God's irretrievable commitment to the human community."

Our five Advent Candles correspond to the first five lessons of the lessons & carols service you'll experience at DPC on December 16. They are: *Creation, Covenant, Prophecy, Choice and Birth*.

You can see how those themes reflect the larger Biblical narrative: God's creative acts that we hear about in Genesis and John; the covenants that God makes with Noah and Abraham; the insistence of the prophets that God will redeem humanity; Mary's choice to be God's partner in salvation; and the incarnation and birth of Jesus, our savior. The movement is also from the cosmic to the particular, from God creating order out of chaos to a single infant wrapped in bands of cloth.

This year our Advent liturgy was composed by Scot Robinson, our VDS field education student. Scot's thoughtful and beautiful liturgical reflections amplify and reinforce those themes, as will the scripture and music we'll experience on December 16.

## Nursery Childcare

After the Word For Our Youngest Disciples, parents may take younger children (5 and under) to our nursery, staffed today by McKennan Henninger and Ruth Butler.

## 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!**

## Parking

Parking for Sunday worship is in the SP+ garage at 147 4th Ave. N.

You must come down 4th from Church Street. Parking in this garage is complimentary from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parking vouchers are necessary to exit the garage without having to pay. To get one, just ask one of our greeters.

## Our Ministries Last Week

### Saturday Breakfast Ministry

132 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on November 24.

### 11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:57, Children:12

## Schedule of Weekly Events

### Today

- 12:00 Congregational meeting  
– The Sanctuary
- 12:30 Waffle Shop setup – Fellowship Hall

### Monday, December 3

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

### Tuesday, December 4

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

### Wednesday, December 5

### Thursday, December 6

- 11:00 Waffle Shop–Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

### Friday, December 7

- 11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

### Saturday, December 8

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

### Sunday, December 9

- 9:00 JuveNiles Rehearsal
- 9:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 Adult Education – Parlor 2
- 9:45 Children's Education - Rm #211
- 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!*

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