



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 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

Having looked at the objects of the universe,
I find there is no one, nor any particle of one,
but has reference to the soul.

— Walt Whitman

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Veni, Emmanuel

Alec Wyton

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

based on Genesis 9:12-16

The Candle of Covenant

L: Through God's promises we see how much God loves us.
[*the leader continues*]...

Today let the light of this candle be a sign of God's promises
that never grow dull and never extinguish even in the storm.

**P: Today we give thanks for God's faithfulness
to the covenants and promises that cannot fail.**

**We look to the examples of Noah and Mary,
who were witnesses to God's promises
and who remained strong in faith.**

**And we are thankful for Christ,
the ultimate fulfillment of those promises,
the One who shows us how much God loves us.**

L: On this second Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Covenant
that reminds us that all the promises of God find their "yes" in Christ.

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

*HYMN #250

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sisters and brother, lets us trust in God’s promises and offer our confession,
confident in God’s grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

based on Malachi 3:1-2

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened.
We have not always determined what is best
or made way for your kingdom in our lives, our church and our society.
Forgive us, we pray,
and renew your covenant within us,
for the sake of Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: Friends, God does not withhold grace until we confess.
Rather, confession opens our hearts, minds and souls
to the grace that always surrounds us.
You are filled with grace, hope and love right now.
May that divine energy flow among us as we say to each other,
“may the peace of Christ be with you.”
P: And also with you.

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

The musical score is written for four voices on a single staff system. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end.

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy One, through your Spirit,
instruct us by your light.
Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call
to become your path into the world.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

The Angels' Songs

The Prophet Speaks

“Someone”
sung by the children

Steve Tippett

The Angels' First Song - Zachariah

Hymn #109 “Blest Be the God of Israel”
sung by the congregation (seated)

The Angels' Second Song - Mary

“No Wind at the Window”
sung by Amy Fink, Sara Chang, Lili Near

text by John Bell,
Irish melody

The Angels' Third Song - Joseph

“A Child Will Come”
sung by the children

Mark Patterson

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-18

(NT p.60)

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

MEDITATION

Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #378

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

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

based on Malachi 3:2; Matthew 24:37-44

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
for the sake of the world that God so loves, let us pray.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

**We pray for peace in every nation –
that hatred and ill will in the hearts of all people,
will be burned away in your refining fire,
leaving only love.**

Pray for the peace of the church.

**We pray for peace in Christ's body –
put an end to fear and fighting,
that we may proclaim your good news
and be awake to your presence.**

Pray for the peace of this community.

**We pray for peace in this place –
for safety in our homes and streets,
for the prosperity of our neighbors,
and for the health of family and friends.**

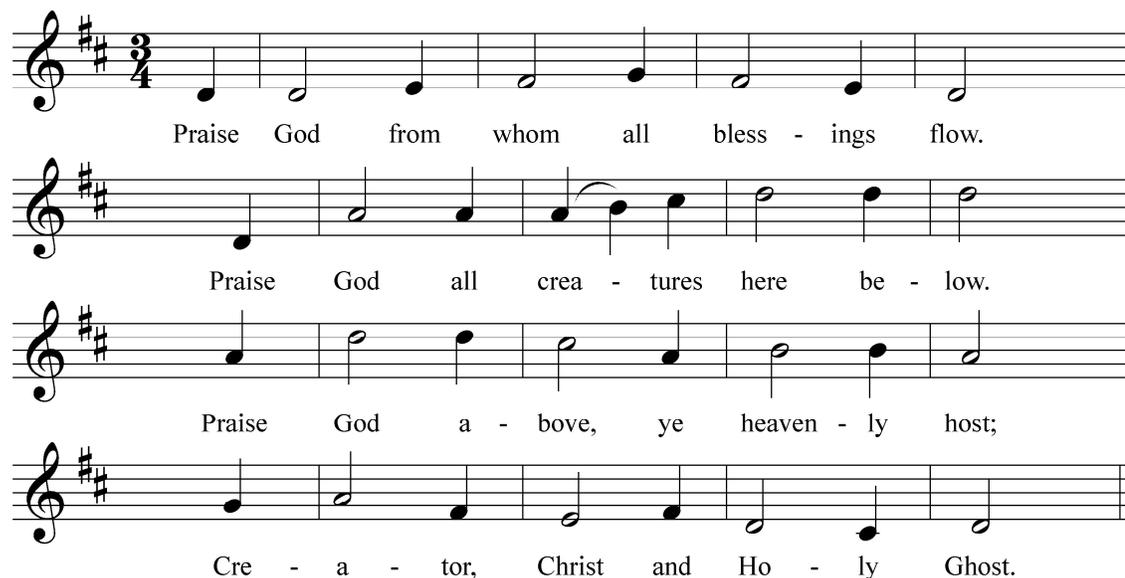
Pray for what breaks your heart.

**We pray for all our concerns and sorrows –
for people we know by name
and those we know only by circumstance.**

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

***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) based on Malachi 3:1-4

The prophet Malachi says God's presence is like a refining fire.
May these offerings be purified by God's blessing
so they may serve God's purposes
and reflect God's glory.
Amen.

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

*HYMN #106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus Raymond H. Haan

Today's bulletin cover is by our DPC kids.

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

The Angels' Songs Credits

The DPC children are happy to present their Advent play today about angels visiting Zachariah, Mary and Joseph to tell them about their important role in the birth of Christ. It is our hope that their leadership will bring special meaning to this Advent season.

Characters

Prophets: Jackson Wills, Lily Byl, Rowan Near
Angels Henry Butler, Gideon Byl, Derek Chang
Child Eliza Bell
Zachariah Dylan Chang
Mary Lili Near
Joseph..... Joshua Bell

Sincere thanks go to these people, who made the children's Play, The Angels' Songs possible:

All the parents, Tom Byl, Cary Gibson, Paulino Jarquin, Dena Swoner, William Taylor, Mike Wilson – and most especially – Suzie Lane

Sections of today's play are from *Reformed Worship* 89 © 2017 Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. Used by permission.

Gerald Quinton Arthur **(August 14, 1927 - November 11, 2018)**

One of our former music directors, Gerald Arthur, died at the age of 91. He was DPC's music director for over 30 years, beginning with Pastor Hogan Yancy through Pastor Ken Locke. Mr. Arthur brought Lessons and Carols to DPC, created a DPC Lenten Concert series, and offered a Messiah Sing In at DPC for the Nashville community. His musical talent and strong leadership put DPC's name into Nashville's classical music scene. A memorial service will be held at Congregation Micah on Sunday, December 16, 2018, 2 p.m.

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.

Congregational Breakfast – Next Sunday

Join us next Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for our annual congregational Christmas Breakfast. We'll enjoy breakfast casserole, pastries, fruit and more.

DPC Clothes Closet

We at DPC maintain a clothing closet to help meet the needs of our homeless and urban poor guests on Saturday morning. As we head into the winter season, the clothing closet needs a few extra items to help our guests stay warm and dry.

Items of greatest need are:

- sweatshirts (hoods preferred)
- coats
- hats
- gloves (larger sizes for men are most needed)
- scarves.
- thermal under-layers in all sizes

We also need sample-sized toiletries:

- bars of soap
- sample-sized shampoo & conditioner
- trial sized deodorant
- toothbrushes and trial or sample sized toothpaste
- chapstick (not lip gloss/lipstick)

Lastly, we always need the following items for men and women:

- Jeans (sizes 30-36 for men are in highest demand)
- Socks - MUST be new
- Underwear - MUST be new

Due to space and time constraints, we ask that you please limit donations to these items of greatest need for the winter season. Thank you for supporting the clothing ministry of Downtown Presbyterian Church!

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.

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 JoAnn Byl.

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

121 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on December 1.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:62, Children:7

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

Monday, December 10

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, December 11

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

Wednesday, December 12

Thursday, December 13

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, December 14

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, December 15

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

Sunday, December 16

9:00 JuveNiles Rehearsal

9:30 Congregational Breakfast

9:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Education – Parlor 2

9:45 Children's Education - Rm #211

11:00 Worship - The Sanctuary

1:00 Session - Parlor 2

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

Scot Robinson, Vanderbilt Divinity Intern

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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(615) 254-7584; FAX (615) 254-4741

Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!

Check us out at: www.dpchurch.com
or scan this QR code

