We Gather in God’s Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Directions For Singing (Nos. III - VII)
From John Wesley’s Select Hymns, 1761

III. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.

IV. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor no more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voice together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

VI. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not turn before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. I order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.
WELCOME

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES

L: ...As we extinguish the third candle of Lent, we acknowledge the darkness and hopelessness of violence committed in our world, yet hold fast to the peace Christ embodied, peace that transcends and illuminates beyond the shadows cast by cruelty and inhumanity.

P: In the name of Jesus, who shines in the darkness and is not overcome, we pray, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Let Me Serve Love”

Let me serve love with my strength this day.

Let me serve love with heart, mind, and body this day. Let me serve love.

ANTIPHONAL PSALM 63:1-8 (CEB translation, alt.)

left side reads bold, right side reads italics

God! My God! It’s you —
We search for you!
Our whole beings thirst for you!
Our bodies desires you in a dry and tired land, no water anywhere.
Yes, we’ve seen you in the sanctuary;
We’ve seen your power and glory.
Our lips praise you because your faithful love is better than life itself!

continued
So we will bless you as long as we’re alive;  
we will lift up our hands in your name.  
We’re fully satisfied — as with a rich dinner.  
Our mouths speak praise with joy on our lips—  
whenever we ponder you on our beds,  
whenever we meditate on you in the middle of the night —  
because you’ve been a help to us  
and we shout for joy in the protection of your wings.  
Our whole beings cling to you;  
your strong hand upholds us.

“Sing, Praise and Bless the Lord”

CALL TO CONFESSION

We offer confession not to feel worse about ourselves but to remember that in all things and always, God reaches out to us in mercy and and every-faithful love. With that sure and certain promise, let us sing.

HYMN OF CONFESSION #421 “Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life”  
(Time for silent confession)
*SONG OF ASSURANCE  “O Lamb of God”

O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us,

Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L:  The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you;
P:  And also with you.

Please return to your seats when the music begins.

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God’s Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  “Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?”

Lord, to whom shall we go? Yours are the words of eternal life.
Blessing

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 Isaiah 55:1-9 (OT p.685)

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


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

Sermon Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God’s Word

“Deep Peace”
“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (people read bold)

based on Isa. 55:2-3; Ps. 63:1, 5; Luke 13:8

As today’s prayer is offered, you are invited to close your eyes and listen. During the prayer, the leader will open a space for you to say aloud your individual prayers.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER, ANOINTING AND CANDLE LIGHTING

Pastor Mike will be available for individual prayer. Any desiring prayer or anointing with oil are invited to come forward. Please wait in the aisle if the station is full.

You may also come forward and offer your prayer by lighting a candle.
“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

“Wait for The Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROUS GIVING
Offertory Anthem
“Tears of Sorrow”  John Bell & Graham Maule
Jen Peterson Morley, Amy Finka, Sara Chang, soloists

*Doxology
“For Yours is the Kingdom”

God of wilderness and Promised Land
in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us.
By these gifts we now share,
may others know of your providence and care.
Send us—not only our offerings, but our very selves—
to console and comfort,
to lift up and reach out,
to listen and sit beside
your children everywhere
at the one Table you have set;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
We Seal God’s Word Upon Our Hearts
And Bear It Into the World

*CLOSING SONG
“May the Love of the Lord”

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

May God’s love dwell in you, throughout every day.

May God’s countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God’s Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
Music Credits

Sing, Praise and Bless the Lord
O Lord, Hear My Prayer
Wait for the Lord
  words: The Taizé Community
  music: Jacques Berthier

Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?
For Yours Is the Kingdom
Tears of Sorrow
  words and music: John J. Bell & Graham Maule

Let Me Serve Love
  words: John Philip Newell
  music: Lindsey Blount/Fran McKendree

Have Mercy, God
  words: David Gambrell, 2009
  music: Hugh Wilson (1764-1824; adapt. Robert Smith (1780-1829)

O Lamb of God
  words: traditional liturgical text

Deep Peace
  words: Lindsey Blount
  music: Lindsey Blount/Fran McKendree

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
  words and music: Ken Medema, 1970

May the Love of the Lord
  words: Maria Ling, 1990; Chinese translation Li Dong, 1990
  music: Swee Hong Lim, 1990
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!

Nursery Childcare

After the Word For Our Youngest Disciples, parents may take younger children (5 and under) to our nursery, staffed today by Catherine DeSimone and Samantha Barclay.

Saturday Breakfast Coordinator Meeting

Saturday Breakfast volunteers will have a meeting today, immediately after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us!

If you have any questions please contact Vickie Coffin at vickcoffin@bellsouth.net.

New Member Classes

Are you interested in exploring membership at DPC? Want to learn more about what it means to be a Presbyterian? Pastor Mike will be forming a new member cohort soon. The group usually meets for three Sundays before worship.

Whether you’ve just started worshiping at DPC or if you’ve been attending for months (or even years), there will be plenty to talk about. And there’s no pressure to join; this is foremost an opportunity for conversation, information and inquiry.

If you’re interested in attending or just have some questions — email Mike at mikewilson@dpchurch.com.

Once he knows how many people will be participating, he’ll set the dates and place.

Presbyterian Women’s Group

Hear ye, hear ye! Are you interested in the Presbyterian Women's group? It's a national organization with local groups. DPC does not currently have an active group. If you would like to learn more about the organization and possibly spear head one for our church, please let Mary Turner know at mturner2614@gmail.com or 615-294-8040.
Conversations on Atonement

How are we reconciled with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus? What was accomplished on the cross? Those are some of the questions that our doctrine of atonement seeks to answer. And it is not enough - and rather unsatisfactory - to say simply, “Jesus died for our sins.”

On March 31 and April 7 Pastor Mike will continue the series that started today in which he explores some of the many and broad understandings of atonement. We’ll look at their origins, strengths and weaknesses, and moderate conversations around how they resonate with us personally.

The conversations will begin at 9:45 on Sundays March 31 and April 7 in Parlor 2. And prior attendance is not required.

Cottage Dinner Sign-Up

It’s time to sign-up for Good Friday Cottage Dinners! Friday, April 19 is Good Friday and we have several amazing hosts to choose from. We have hosts out in Bellevue, two in East Nashville, Pastor Mike will be hosting at the church, and one at Shelby Bottoms during the day for the whole family! It's a casual, potluck dinner with prayers and liturgy. Cottage Dinners, not including Shelby Bottoms, runs roughly from 6:30-9:00 or whenever the hosts deem they want to put their jammies on and call it a night!

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex, so grab a spot today!

If you have any questions, please email or call Mary Turner at 615.294.8040 mturner2624@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed for Art Crawl

We could use a few more people to help out with First Saturday Art Crawl. We need volunteers to meet and greet; provide brief tours; and direct folks around to other activities around the building.

April Art Crawl is also a great time to check out Stations of The Cross. There are 14 innovative stations to contemplate!
**Spring Cleanup Day**

On Saturday, April 6, you are invited to join us after the Saturday breakfast to help spruce up the church for Easter.

We’ll doing some cleaning and polishing, getting rid of some clutter, and doing our best to make the church bright and shiny for Easter and beyond.

There will be tasks big and small...something for everyone! Breakfast goodies from RISE for our work crew will be provided!

We will be scrubbing and polishing from 9:30 - 11:45. Our parking vouchers are good till noon! Gather in Fellowship Hall for assignments. Questions? Contact Denny Harris at glenden5129@comcast.net or 615-833-3923

And remember: Many hands make light work!

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**DPC Book Group: The Library by Susan Orlean**

*The Library Book* is about the 1986 Los Angeles Central Library fire and the mystery of how it started—but in some ways that’s the least of it. It’s also a history of libraries, and of a particular library, as well as the personal story of Orlean and her mother, who was losing her memory to dementia while Orlean was retrieving her own memories by writing this book.”

Meeting May 9th, 6:30 pm. Place TBD.

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**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!
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.

DPC Clothes Closet

We are making a few changes to the clothing closet ministry to better maximize volunteer availability and the space available.

Please plan to drop off donations on Thursdays from 11-1 or Saturday from 9:30-10 as the breakfast program is winding down.

We currently need the following items for men and women:
- jeans in good condition
- casual T-shirts
- sweatshirts (hoods preferred)
- tennis shoes in good condition
- sample size toiletries

Monetary contributions can be made electronically by texting “dpchurch” to 73256 and selecting clothes closet from the drop-down menu.

For more information about the clothes closet please go to www.dpchurch.com.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!
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 3:00 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

108 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on March 16.

16 people visited the clothes closet on March 16.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults: 57, Children: 5

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

12:00 Saturday Breakfast Coordinator Meeting—Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 25

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, March 26

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

Wednesday, March 27

5:00 Nursing School Graduation - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 28

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, March 29

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Saturday, March 30

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

Sunday, March 31

9:00 JuveNiles Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Education - Parlor 2 (Conversations on Atonement)

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        Jeff Koontz, Treasurer
Jack Henderson, Clerk

Class of 2019
Chuck Cardona
Jack Henderson
Justin Near

Class of 2020
Dave Coleman
Debra Gentry
Vickie Coffin

Class of 2021
Mary Turner
Jim Hoobler
David Maddox

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
154 5th Ave North, Nashville, TN 37219
(615) 254-7584
Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!

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