

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

To turn from everything to one face is to find oneself
face to face with everything.

– Elizabeth Bowen, *The Heat of the Day*

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659 J.S. Bach
Tune and text taken from Hymn #102

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Matthew 1:18-25 Jack Henderson

*HYMN #84 "Creator of the Stars of Night"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Come now, Reconciler of the nations,
for our world, our lives, need your peace more than ever before.
Come, Summoner to discipleship,
for we long to let go of our self-interest and narcissism.
Come, Word-Gifter,
for we hunger to hear your voice once again, ever always.
Come, Servant of the poor,
so we notice you in all those we push past in this hectic season.

Come, Silence of our nights and Holiness of our hearts,
and forgive us for turning your compassion into commercials,
your joy into jingles,
your hope into hollow words,
your love into lust for the short-lasting offerings of the world.

May we find our way to the One born simply, born gracefully, for us -
Jesus, the Child of wonder and life.

(Time for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

*GLORIA #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)

Come, Over-flowing joy:

tip-toeing into our lives
like the children on the holiest of nights.

Come, Good News of grace:

prepare our hearts to welcome you,
and all whose hopes have turned to ashes.

Come, Dreamer of peace:

so we may pour our lives and gifts
into a world in need of reconciliation.

Come, Spirit of Wisdom:

so we may hear and believe the Word written, proclaimed
and made flesh. Amen.

The Christmas Story

Mary and Joseph

ANTHEM

Bethlehem Night

Terry D. Taylor

On this night a King is born in a cattle shed.
Swaddling clothes will keep him warm in his manger bed.
What a wonder, what a story, what a joyful sight!
Can this be another ordinary Bethlehem night?
What a wonder, what a story, what a joyful sight!
Love is come, our God is with us, on this Bethlehem Night.
Love is come, our God is with us, on this Bethlehem Night.

The Shepherds

SOLO

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt Jaroslav and Carl Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred.
But there is room and welcome there for me;
But there is room and welcome there for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare:
A child, a son, a Prince of Peace for me;
A child, a son, a Prince of Peace for me.

The Wise Men

ANTHEM

Sing Noel, Sing Noel

traditional, arr. by Hal H. Hobson

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing we all Noel, Sing we all Noel,
Go and tell the news:
Christ the Lord is born.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

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

MEDITATION

Rev. Mike Wilson

*HYMN #88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
verses 1-2, 6-7

We Respond to God’s Word

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

During the prayer, the leader will open a space for you to say aloud your individual prayers.

You may come forward during the prayer to light a candle at the prayer table.

Today’s prayer response will be:

L: O God who is with us, P: hear our prayer.

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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROUS GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave Maria

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena Dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus Christus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Translation:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Christ.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*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*)

We must not take the gifts God gives to us,
even the most tangible ones, and hoard them for ourselves.
Rather, we offer them, as well as our hearts and lives,
as offerings to those in true need around us.
This we pray in the name of Bethlehem's child. Amen.

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

*HYMN #93 "Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* A.N. Vetter
Tune taken from Hymn #102

*Flowers for today's service were donated by
Irene and Ridley Wills in memory of Jesse Wills II.*

This week's bulletin cover

The work is titled *Lace of the Lord*, and it is a reflection on continuity and the interconnectedness of our world. It is a symbolic analogy of how so many parts of our lives are like threads woven together in a complex manner to reflect God's plan. The threads are made up of events in our lives, the people our lives touch, and the environment here on earth. It is a complex interlocking web that makes up the miracle of life.

The Christmas Story

Characters:

Voice 1 Lily Byl
Voice 2 Dylan Chang
Voice 3 Jackson Wills
Mary..... Rowan Near
Joseph Henry Butler
Shepherds..... Joshua Bell, Gideon Byl
Angels..... Lili Near, Alice Butler
Wise Man Derek Chang

Sincere thanks go to these people, who made this year's play possible:
William Taylor, Mike Wilson, Suzie Lane, Tom Byl, Paulino Jarquin, Dena Swoner, and all the parents

Nursery Childcare

Nursery caregiver today is Samantha Barclay. If childcare is needed anytime during the service, please see a greeter for assistance.

Advent and Christmas Worship Services

- ◆ **Tuesday, December 24** - Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 25** - Christmas Day Service
10:00 a.m. in The Chapel
- ◆ **Sunday, December 29** – Worship 11:00 a.m. in The Chapel

DPC Directory Update

We want to stay in touch with our members and friends, so please take a minute to update your contact information for the Church Directory! There is a current directory in the Narthex with instructions for confirming or updating your information. And forms are available if you aren't in the directory but would like to be.

And since this is a picture directory, feel free to submit a new photo even if your other information is the same.

If you have any questions please call Dena in the office at 615-254-7584 or email info@dpchurch.com.

Meetups With Mike

The Personnel Committee and Pastor Mike would like to invite you to set up an informal one on one (or two) get together with him. Call or email (mikewilson@dpchurch.com) to schedule coffee, a meal - breakfast, lunch or dinner are all possible - a walk in the park, a home visit, or just some time at the church. Let's all get to know Mike better and let him know us!

First Sunday Lunch Meetup of 2020!

Ho! Ho! Ho! This year the Hospitality Committee has decided to push our Christmas morning breakfast meal to January. So please join us on **Sunday, January 5th, 2020 in the Fellowship Hall!** This will also be our first First Sunday Lunch for 2020! The church will put together breakfast casserole dishes for the congregation to enjoy right after service.



We'll also take the opportunity to put our holiday decorations away, so please plan to either come at 10 am - before our 11 am service to help de-trim our Fellowship Hall and/or stay post lunch to continue the de-trimming! A little bit of time by many members will make the task a lot easier than just a few doing the work. The boxes will be put out by 10 am.

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.

Join DPC's Grant-Writing Team!

Do you like to write? Do you like asking for money? Do you love DPC? If so, will you please think about joining the Team of Super Friends of DPC in grant-writing? If you have a hankering to help out DPC by joining this group of friends, WE WANT YOU! Please see Chuck Cardona or David Maddox after worship!

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

143 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on December 14.

85 people visited the clothes closet on December 14.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:57, Children:14

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

Monday, December 23

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, December 24

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

6:00 Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 26

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, December 27

Saturday, December 28

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

Sunday, December 29

9:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Children's Education - Rm #211

11:00 Worship - The Chapel

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 2019

Rev. Mike Wilson, Moderator

Jack Henderson, Clerk

Jeff Koontz, Treasurer

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

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

