



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

A Service of Lessons & Carols

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In the shipwreck book
there are no entries
for ships guided safely home.

— Jodie O'Regan, from her poem "*Lightkeeper*"

OPENING VOLUNTARY

A Nativity Suite (1959) Wilbur Held
Oh, Come, Emmanuel (Hymn #88)
Silent Night (Hymn #122)
Shepherds (based on a Bohemian carol)
The Three Kings (Hymn #151)
Joy to the World (Hymn #134)

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Matthew 11:2-11 Justin Near

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP Gloria Jodie O'Regan

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax.

Translation: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace.

*HYMN #108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

verses 1-2, all

verse 3, women & children

verse 4, men

verses 5-6, all

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Isaiah 35:1,4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

based on Isaiah 35:1-10

God of glory, God of splendor,
we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness, a highway called The Holy Way,
and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.
We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word.
We are lifeless when we ought to dance
and speechless when we ought to sing.
Forgive us, O Lord.

Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
strengthen our weak hands,
make firm our feeble knees,
and dispel our grief and groaning,
as we follow you toward everlasting joy.
Amen.

(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 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 Isaiah 35:1-10

Life-giving God, pour out the power of your Spirit
so that your Word may blossom in our lives;
through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness. Amen.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1:1-5

Kim McMullin and Mike Wilson, readers

Creation: *Creation from Jewish and Christian perspectives*

The Word Was God

Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.
All things were made that have been made.
Nothing was made He has not made.

—John 1:1-3

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 9:12-16

Jim Hoobler, reader

Covenant: *God's commitment to all people is from the beginning of time
and will continue beyond the end of time.*

Hymn #55

“Come Like Driving Wind, O God”

vs.1 Nina Cardona, mezzo-soprano; vs.2 choir, vs.3-5 all

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Tom Byl, reader

Prophecy: *God will send one “from the stump of Jesse”
to lead the people in righteousness.*

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul O. Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord the Lord almighty God,
Who was and is, and is to come, sing holy, holy Lord.

SEVENTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-15a

Chuck Cardona, reader

God's Presence Overcoming Fear: *As we experience God-with-us in Jesus,
we discover that at the heart of creation there is a saving Love,
greater than the deathly force of fear in ourselves or others.*

Star of Wonder

Mark Patterson

Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
Lead us to the Child in the manger, we will bring our gifts to Him.

— John H. Hopkins, Mark Patterson

Tom Ashley, piano; Adam Troxel, flute

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

Vicki Coffin, reader

Sharing Love: *At Christmas we participate in God's generosity
by opening our homes, sharing food, enjoying people's talents and exchanging gifts.
At all times we share God's generosity in hospitality and work for justice
because we see God present in each and every person.*

Some Children See Him

Alfred Burt

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.
Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown,
the Lord of heav'n to earth come down.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside.
Some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.
Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.
Some children see him dark as they, and, ah! They love Him, too!

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus' face
Like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.
O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering,
Come worship now the infant King. 'Tis love that's born tonight!

— Wihla Hutson

Sara Chang, mezzo-soprano

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: God, you are in our midst, **P:** renew us in your love.

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

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

— Christina Rossetti

Amy Finka, soprano; Emlyn O'Regan, baritone

*DOXOLOGY #84 "Creator of the Stars of Night"
verses 1-3

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)
based on Psalm 145:5-10

Thank you, O maker of heaven and earth,
giver of justice, lover of righteousness,
hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor.

Your faithfulness never fails.

Take and use these gifts we offer
to further your purpose in the world
and to fulfill the promise of the world to come;
through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

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

*HYMN #119 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729 J. S. Bach
Tune taken from Hymn #132

Anthem for the Call to Worship

The theme for this Gloria came to me while I was walking my dog through the lovely Christmas lights and decorations in my neighborhood. Emlyn and I hadn't put out any lights, and we'd got a letter from the neighborhood association asking us to do our part for the street. I was thinking on this, and wishing I had a choir of angels to contribute, singing in the front garden. This would show the bossy neighborhood association! As I walked this rhythm came into my head. I haven't managed to install an angel choir but I know DPC choir will be wonderful.

Jodie O'Regan, Composer-in-Residence

This week's bulletin cover is from a collaborative painting from the Poesis art collective. Poesis comprises students from Vanderbilt Divinity School and they are among our DPC artists-in-residence. About the piece they write:

What does it mean for the Spirit to be the physical manifestation of the presence of God? The scriptures tell us that the Lord comes to save us. This is a collective event, often experienced as a personal one. What does it mean for God to be doing all of those things that the prophet describes - displaying glory and splendor, strengthening weak hands, supporting unsteady knees, opening blind eyes, clearing deaf ears - at once? And how do we conceptualize that? And what does that physically look like? Advent is an intentional season of waiting in expectation for God. But the reality is, God continues to make God's presence known in unexpected ways. Sometimes the presence of God shows up in dark places, but we do not experience more light. That does not mean that God is not there. On the contrary, perhaps that is exactly where God is.

Nursery Childcare

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

Advent and Christmas Events

- ◆ **Sunday, December 22** - Children's presentation
- ◆ **Tuesday, December 24** - Christmas Eve Service 6pm
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 25** - Christmas Day Service 10am

We wish to thank all those making this service possible. Especially we would like to thank Dixie Williamson and Edward Cardona for their ongoing support and assistance with the JuveNiles choir.

Adult Choir Members

Adam Troxel	Chris Szalaj	Nina Cardona
Amy Finka	Dixie Williamson	Jodie O'Regan
Ann Forlines	Edward Cardona	Ryan Norris
Beth Cyrus	Emily Williamson	Sara Chang
Bill Hodges	Emlyn O'Regan	Tom Ashley
George Williamson	Kasey McCormick-Melberg	

Handbell Choir Members

Brandon Bell	Eliza Bell	Erin Bell
--------------	------------	-----------

JuveNiles Choir Members

Dylan Chang	Gideon Byl	Evelyn Szalaj
Derek Chang	Abigail Szalaj	Jackson Wills
Joshua Bell	Lily Byl	

Adult Sunday School

Preparing for Christmas by Richard Rohr

Please join us in Parlor 2 at 9:45!

For three consecutive **Sundays, Dec. 8 through Dec. 22**, DPC Christian Education will host Scriptural reflections for Advent using the book "Preparing for Christmas" by Richard Rohr. Each Sunday a DPC member or friend will lead participants through Scripture readings, reflections and a discussion question.

"Advent is not about a sentimental waiting for the Baby Jesus. Advent is a time to focus our expectations and anticipation on 'the Adult Christ, the Cosmic Christ,' who challenges us to empty ourselves, to lose ourselves, to surrender."

- Richard Rohr

For more information, contact Dave Coleman at dave_four@hotmail.com

2019 Lessons & Carols Notes

This year's Lessons & Carols scripture sequence 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."

You will hear 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 story reflected in the readings also takes us *beyond* Christ's birth and toward the core of his teaching, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind... And you must love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Matt. 22:37-39)

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 and the man he would become.

This year our five Advent Candles, composed by Scot Robinson, our VDS field education student, correspond to the first five lessons of today's lessons & carols service. They are: Creation, Covenant, Prophecy, Choice and Birth.

Waffle Shop Thank You!

A belated thank you to all who helped before, during, and after Waffle Shop. It was a tremendous day with good weather, good friends, and good vibes. The Holiday Shop led by JoAnn Byl and Glenda Harris and the Silent Auction led by Erin Bell were wonderful and had banner years due of course to their hard work but also the generous donations made by members and non-members. Many of the local businesses donated so please thank them by visiting their establishments. These include Deacons, Pucketts, Ellington's/ Fairlane Hotel, The Hermitage Hotel, The Corner Pub, Crumbs, and D'Andrews Bakery. Also, remember that business donations don't have to be right downtown to get folks excited, they can be your favorites that others would enjoy such as Jimmy Kelly's which contributed this year.

Also, thanks to Rachel Hayes and Denny Harris for being co-chairs. BTW the clean-up crew was particularly awesome (Rob, Matt, Jonathan, Tim, & Dave), staying way after 1pm.

And finally I have to thank Dena Swoner and Michael Korak who keep me sane throughout the year prepping for this annual event.

Again thanks to all and let's see if we can make the 96th in 2020. It takes more than a village, it takes a congregation (and then some)!

Merry Christmas! Mary

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.

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.

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!

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

161 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on December 7.

64 people visited the clothes closet on December 7.

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:47, Children:6

Schedule of Weekly Events

Today

1:00 Session - Parlor 2

Monday, December 16

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Tuesday, December 17

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

12:00 Bible Study - Parlor 1

Wednesday, December 18

Thursday, December 19

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 2

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

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

Sunday, December 22

9:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Adult Sunday School – 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
154 5TH AVE North, NASHVILLE, TN 37219
(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

