

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 31, 2021

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Angelus”

Charles Gounod

Martha Lynn Thompson, arranger

The DPC Handbell Choir

(Please meditate quietly during the opening voluntary.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Hear! Everyone who thirsts,

P: **Come to the waters.**

L: And you that have no payment,

P: **Seek the holy Unnamed One!**

L: Come, buy and eat without debt.

P: **Come, and savor in absolute freedom.**

L: While God may be found,

P: **We call upon you, O God who is near!**

L: Guide us, hold us,

P: **Feed us to our fill!**

*HYMN #65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CALL TO CONFESSION (UNISON)

Knowing God, as we continue to wait on your good and unhurried time, we wait in hope for healing. You see all of us. You invite us into ever greater wholeness and relationship with you and your children. No part is hidden; every part shall be restored.

continued

(silent confession)

No part is hidden; every part shall be restored.

Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear these words of assurance and good news, that God so loved the world Christ was sent, not to condemn us, but to free us. Beloved, we are called to be free. Let us serve one another humbly therefore, for the entirety of the law is summed up in one word, in this, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

PASSING THE PEACE

L: In the spirit of love, let us greet one another.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

Please greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation.

Please return to your seats when the music starts.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, amen.

God's Word Is Proclaimed

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

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

SECOND READING

James 5:7-11

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

SERMON

“Unrevealed Until Its Season”

Rev. Larissa Romero

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #250 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower (Hymn of Promise)"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (people read bold)

Christ meets us in the midst of the world as it is. We accept the invitation to pay attention to our deepest longings in this moment of silence:
(moment of silence)

Awaken our dreams of collective care and flourishing as we pray, too,
for one another:

(the people offer their prayers aloud)

With the assurance of God's companionship, let us repeat the words of Christ as disciples of hope.

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.

SACRED REFLECTION OF BLESSINGS & TESTIMONIALS

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Here we are, co-laborers for Love, taking what we have and placing it on the altar in trust of your promises. We will not seek what is behind us, trusting most the way it's always been. We will envision our future so we recognize it as it incarnates. With open hands and unshakable expectation, let us bring what we have to make it so.

To offer your financial support to the ministry and mission of DPC:

- Place your offering in one of our designated offering locations.
- Use our mobile app by texting "dpchurch" to 73256.
- Visit www.dpchurch.com and click "Online and Mobile Giving".

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“God Be In My Head”

John Rutter

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and at my departing.

Old English prayer from *Sarum Primer*

*DOXOLOGY #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)

Visionary One, these offerings signify our dedication to your story of freedom. Forgive us for when our dreams are too stingy, or when our capacity for spaciousness is stifled by old stories. May we have the wisdom and clarity to remove obstacles blocking the flow of justice. May we heal one another into your expansive ways. Amen.

We Seal God’s Word Upon Our Hearts And Bear It Into the World

*HYMN #463

“How Firm a Foundation”
(v.1,3,4)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received,

and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

And may all God's people say.

P: Alleluia, Amen.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Toccatà in D minor, BWV 565"

J.S. Bach

(Please remain seated during the closing voluntary.)

Intercessory, Offering & Thanksgiving Prayers by © 2021 enflashed, adapted by Rev.

Larissa Romero

Benediction by Saint Teresa de Ávila

Liturgist: Alison Letcher

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D)

(Em)



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7)

(D)



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7)

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(F#)

(Bm)



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(A7)

(D)



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

DPC Membership Classes!

Are you interested in discerning membership with The Downtown Presbyterian Church? If so, we hope you will join us for a short class series on the meaning of being intentionally integrated into the life and ministry of DPC. We will meet on the Sunday mornings of October 31, November 7, and November 14th at 9:45 am in the Sunday School room. Each class will guide you through the questions as outlined below:

Oct. 31: What is church membership? What are the church's mission and values? What is Reformed theology and the Presbyterian Church?

Nov. 7: What is church leadership? How are decisions made? How do our church government and church polity/governing intersect?

Nov. 14: What is the history of the church? What has our story been, and what do we continue to learn about ourselves? How can you stay connected to the church?

This class is open to everyone! Whether you just joined us for worship last week, have been visiting for a while, or are a long-time member wanting a refresher, we hope you will attend this time of reviewing what unifies us as a congregation. On Sunday the 21st, we will have a celebration of new members during worship!

DPC Book Club

The DPC book group has selected *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain for our next read. We will gather on **November 4th at 6:30pm** to discuss this text together. A book kit is on loan from the library; please email events@dpchurch.com if you would like to borrow one of the available copies of the book. To learn more about our book club or join our next meeting, contact Joel Dark (joelhdark@gmail.com). All are welcome.

Cauldron Cook-off on November 7th!



On **November 7th**, we'll have the annual cauldron cook-off. We plan to gather in the fellowship hall for a fall feast among friends! This year, we'll have prizes in 4 categories: traditional chili, non-traditional chili, soup or stew, and dessert. As in the past, we'll have ballots for voting and small prizes for the winners.

If you have questions or would like to help with either of these events, please email events@dpchurch.com.

Nursery Care Available for Sunday Worship

We are thankful to have nursery care available for Sunday mornings. Nursery care will be provided during the worship service for children through age 5. The nursery is located on the 2nd floor and is ready to welcome the youngest of DPC attendees.

Current Worship Procedures

We recognize the recent COVID/Delta outbreak has changed the CDC's guidance, *even for those who are vaccinated*. As such, we have made the following changes to our worship procedures.

- To help encourage everyone to make full use of our wonderful sanctuary, we have roped off rows where we ask you not to sit. We hope this will help encourage more social distancing.
- When sitting in a socially distanced pew, you can remove your mask.
- If you are singing or moving about the sanctuary, we request that you wear a mask.
- If you are not yet vaccinated, we request that you wear a mask any time you are inside the church.
- Nursery workers will wear masks to help protect our youngest church attendees.

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

- Belief in God's love and in Christ's ministry
- The desire to welcome and embrace everyone. No exceptions.
- Service to God, service to our neighbors
- God's gift of creativity

SESSION 2021

Class of 2021

Jim Hoobler
Mary Turner
David Maddox

Class of 2022

Erin Bell
Tom Byl
Jake Byl

Class of 2023

Tom Wills
Samera Zavaro
Leslee Hughes

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Larissa Romero, Pastor
Dena Swoner, Office Manager
Paulino Jarquin, Maintenance Manager
Dr. William Taylor, Director of Music

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.