





# Homesick

First Sunday of Advent

## THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 28, 2021

Hearing assistance devices are available. *Please ask a greeter for a receiver.*

(\*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

### Gathering in God's Name

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Desireless”

Don Cherry

(Please meditate silently during the Opening Voluntary.)

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

P: We are homesick for a just world,  
for peace like rivers,  
for the end of suffering.

L: Yes, we are homesick—

P: for joy that is contagious,  
for nations that feel like neighbors,  
and for hospitals that run empty.

L: We are homesick for the world God promises.

P: We are homesick, but we are on our way.

L: God is here. God is still creating.

P: Let us worship Holy God.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We hope for a world where all are fed.

We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.

We hope for a world with wide open doors.

We hope for a world with contagious laughter.

We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.

We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies,  
in the church, in their physical homes.

We hope for that world.

We long for that world.

We are homesick for that world.

So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive  
as we wait.

May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

We are close to home. May we carry hope with us. Amen.

**\*HYMN #357      “The Days Are Surely Coming”**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**L:** When you're a kid and you get homesick at a sleepover or a summer camp,  
you call home and your parents come and get you. Sometimes, that's what  
love looks like. Love bails us out.

In the same way, when we call upon God to confess that we've messed up,  
or forgotten something, or overlooked the truth, God answers with grace.  
God answers with love. So let us confess today, knowing that nothing could  
keep God from loving us.

**P:** Gracious God,

We find ourselves with two options every day—  
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism  
to win.

Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.

Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a  
better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- L: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:
- P: There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

- L: In the spirit of hope and home, 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.

## Encountering the Living Word of God

SCRIPTURE READING                      Jeremiah 33:14-16  
L: The word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING                      Luke 21:25-36  
L: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **P: Glory to you, O Lord.**

PRAYER PRACTICE                      Sacred Imagination

POEMS REFLECTING ON MEMORIES OF HOME BY EMILY ZAVARO

SERMON                      "Homesick and Hopeful"

## Responding to God's Word & Call

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

God of the weary and waiting,  
Scripture tells us that where two or more are gathered, you are there.  
So we trust that you are here—listening to these words, drawing us close,  
stirring hope awake in us. And for that we are grateful. We are so grateful.

Today, Holy God, we feel close to home, close to you when . . .  
the choir sings,  
when the candles are lit,  
when we enter this space and someone knows our name.  
We feel close to home when our children are curious,  
when we find moments of true connection,  
when we are brave enough to be who you call us to be.

However, God, even with gratitude for our close-to-home moments, we also  
recognize that buried deep within us we have homesick hearts.

Holy God, we are homesick for...  
a world we have not seen.  
We are homesick for a world where oceans are clean,  
trees are green, and animals are not endangered.  
We are homesick for a life where days feel expansive and Sabbath  
feels possible.  
We are homesick for days where mental health is not stigmatized,  
time is not a commodity, and self-worth is not a scarcity.

We pray, too, for,  
(the people lift up their prayers aloud)

God who never leaves us alone, we are carrying both hope and homesickness  
all at the same time. Hold these two sides of the same coin tenderly, and fan  
the flame of both. For we realize, hope is a gift and homesickness is a  
reminder. For each conviction, we give you thanks.

Now with the confidence of children, we pray together, saying. . .

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.

## COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Family of faith, it does not take long to see that we are not home yet. There are people who are hungry, oceans that are polluted, churches that are fading, walls that are growing. We are clearly not home yet. So until we reach that promised day, until we make it home, giving what we can to make a better world matters. When we give our tithes and our offerings we help build God's home here. So with hopeful hearts, let us give.

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](http://www.dpchurch.com) and click "Online and Mobile Giving".

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"The Maker"

Daniel Lanois

\*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*)

Holy God, We are homesick. We long for the day that you spoke of when swords will be beaten into plowshares, the lion will lie down with the lamb, and justice will roll like waters. Until that holy day comes, take these gifts and use them to build that world here. We are hopeful. Amen.

## Invitations & Announcements

\*Hymn                      “See Fig Tree Leaves Now Sprouting”

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: As you leave this service, your service begins:

Comfort the homesick.

Open your doors to others.

Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God’s house, all are welcomed —  
so come back soon.

In the name of our Foundation— Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit —  
go in peace.

And may all God’s people say.

**P: Alleluia, Amen.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Wait for the Lord”

Jacques Berthier

*(Please remain seated during the closing voluntary.)*

Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC  
| sanctifiedart.org by Rev. Larissa Romero

Musicians: Opening voluntary: David Maddox, Opening hymn: Amy Finka and  
Tom Ashley leading, Offertory: Dave Coleman, Closing hymn: Amy Finka and  
Tom Ashley leading Closing voluntary: Dave Coleman and David Maddox

Liturgist: Chuck Cardona

Candlelighters: Shaun Douglas, Tara Herbert, Murray Douglas, David Douglas



**Note on “Close to Home”  
Advent—Epiphany Series by A Sanctified Art**

“When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. The *Close to Home* theme acknowledges the ‘already but not yet’ tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. In many ways, these scriptures are like blueprints—detailing the dreams of a God who makes a home with us. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth; sacred ground is all around us.

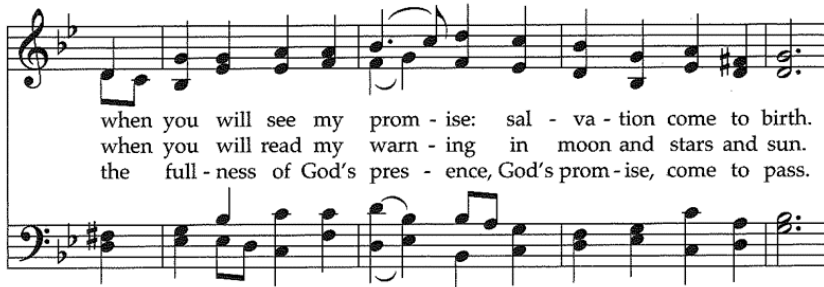
This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.”



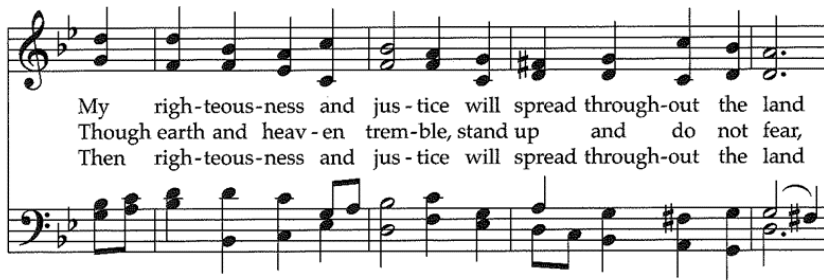
# The Days Are Surely Coming 357



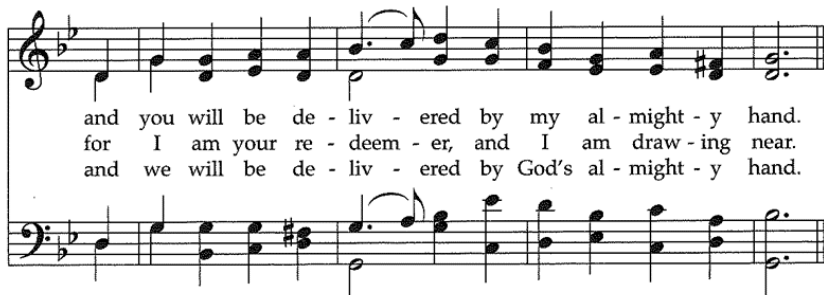
1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,  
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,  
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last



when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.  
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.  
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.



My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land  
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,  
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land



and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.  
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.  
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

# See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting

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Text: Anna Strickland (2021)

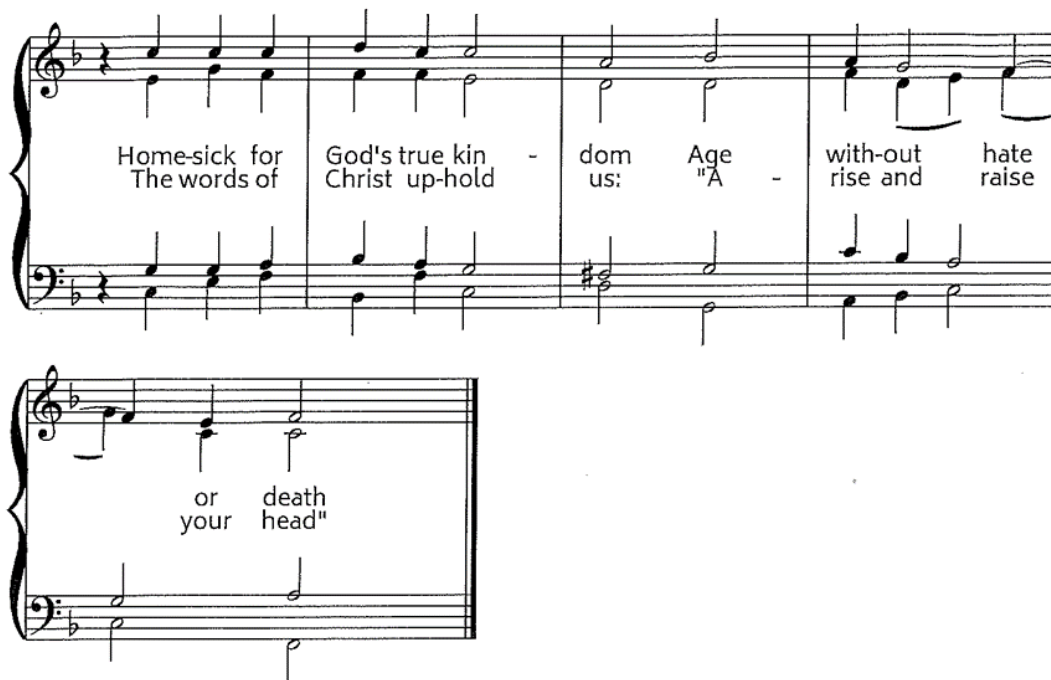
Music: Geisliche Kirchengasäng (1599)

See fig tree leaves now sprout - ing Soon sum-mer comes  
Sun, moon, and stars a - bove us Speak of God's pro -

a - gain Cre - a - tion groans in la - bor For  
mised day To make space for our new home This

God's reign to be - gin We wait with ba - ted breath  
world must pass a - way When we are filled with dread

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### Note on today's music

The opening offertory is a song by Don Cherry, a trumpeter who came to prominence as a member of Ornette Coleman's group which pioneered the genre of free jazz in the late 50s and early 60s. Cherry was also a member of the Jazz Composers Orchestra and in the 70s expanded his music to incorporate Indian, African, and Middle Eastern elements. Cherry recorded the song *Desireless* several times, sometimes under the titles *Hope or Utopia and Visions*.

The closing voluntary, "Wait for the Lord," is a composition from the Community of Taizé in France, which is known for their practice of contemplative music.

## Congregational Meeting is Today!

DPC's Congregational Meeting to elect the incoming class of ruling elders will be held today immediately after worship in the fellowship hall. Ruling elders at DPC serve for 3 years. Each year 3 new elders are elected as 3 elders' time of service ends.

As we look with excitement for those coming onto Session, we also want to express our gratitude to the elders who will be rolling off of session in December: Jim Hoobler (chair of Building & History Committee) & David Maddox (chair of Worship & Arts Committee). Mary Turner (chair of Hospitality Committee) recently resigned from the session after serving over 2.5 years. We are also especially grateful to Vickie Coffin who has served as clerk of session for 2 years. Vickie is not a voting member of the current session, but she has fulfilled many duties as clerk of session this year. We truly appreciate each of these elders for their time of service on session at DPC.





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M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S  
*To our church family:*

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*Scan here to view DPC's online calendar  
& learn more about what we've got planned!*



Copies of the December  
Calendar are available in  
the narthex.

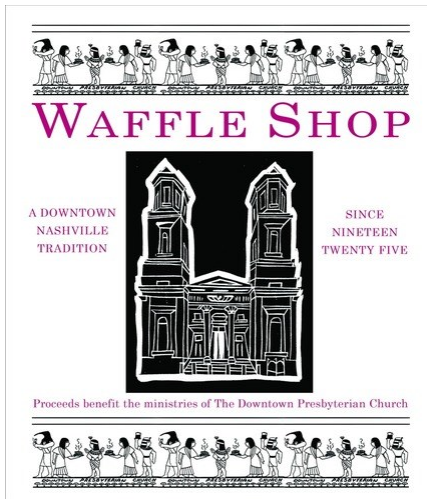




## **Decorating Day at DPC is Today!**

Join us today for some holiday fun as we decorate the fellowship hall and chapel for Christmas! We'll play some classic Christmas music as we get DPC looking merry & bright! A pizza lunch will be served, along with hot cocoa & sugar cookies. Join us as we bring the Christmas spirit to DPC!

## **Waffle Shop 2021**



We are already over halfway through our annual Waffle Shop fundraiser! This year, each \$15 virtual ticket will include 1 package of our traditional Waffle Shop Waffle mix which contains enough to make approximately 8 standard-sized waffles or pancakes. Perfect for enjoying at home or gifting to friends & family! We also have a variety of delicious baked goods and a few holiday items available for purchase this year. Items purchased online may be picked up from DPC on December 2nd from 10am-2pm and on Sunday, December 5th from 12:30-2pm.

Most importantly, your purchase will help fund the church's community outreach programs, assisting less-advantaged members of our community. Thank you for supporting this annual fundraiser for a vital ministry at DPC!

To purchase Waffle Shop Tickets & Holiday Items go to DPC's main home page, [www.dpchurch.com](http://www.dpchurch.com), and click on the Waffle Shop article.



### Donations for DPC Silent Auction

DPC will have a silent auction in December to raise money for our outreach programs. Mary Skinner is chairing the auction and looking for donations. So far the following items have been donated: tickets for 4 to Cheekwood, tickets for 2 to a TPAC Broadway musical, and a gift basket of children's books and toys. If you wish to donate something you think will be a good item, please contact Mary at [maryskinner@comcast.net](mailto:maryskinner@comcast.net).



### DPC Committee Corner

Come be a part of the conversations that create DPC's future! All meetings are open to DPC members and friends. If interested in getting involved, please email the committee chairperson for the meeting information.

- **Building/History and Finance** - Monday, November 15th at 7:00pm via Zoom; Jake Byl & Stephanie Coleman (Finance), and Jim Hoobler (Building/History) chairs
- **Session** - Monday, November 22nd at 3:00pm via Zoom

## **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  
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.