

Picture by DPC Artist in residence Hans Schmitt-Maatzen

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Day 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 Adagio from *Christmas Concerto* Arcangelo Corelli
arr. Bruce Nelson
(Please meditate silently during the Opening Voluntary.)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: An unmarried teenage girl was invited—

P: to carry Christ into this world.

L: An ordinary carpenter was invited—

P: to be a father to a child unlike any other.

L: The shepherds were invited—

P: outcast and isolated, included at the manger.

L: The Magi were invited—

P: foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.

L: And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—

P: then we can trust that we too are invited.

L: This story is for us.

P: This love is for us.

L: Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

P: Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In God's house, there is hope—

For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.

In God's house, there is peace—

For all that separates us from God falls away.

In God's house, there is joy—

Because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.

In God's house, there is love— Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all. Light the candle of love.
And in the center of our hope,
In the center of our peace,
In the center of our joy,
In the center of our love, is God—who came to this earth to dwell among us.
So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.
Welcome home. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

PRAYER OF PROCLAMATION

L: God of Birth, help us to know and share how deeply you are with us!

P: **Free us to a life lived deep in hope, peace, joy, and love through your Child, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

L: Remembering the Good News

We recall the good news of an angel to poor shepherds in a cold field,

P: **That God came to be with us**

as a vulnerable babe

soon-to-be refugee

who would grow up to be poor

born amongst animals

to an unwed mother

and join with all of creation.

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Jesus was not born in a real home. He was born into poverty. He was born into simplicity. He was born into a manger in Bethlehem. And despite the little he might have had, Jesus still spent the rest of his days on earth giving to others. Generosity is in the DNA of our faith. We give what we can, not because we should or because scripture says to. We give because we're family. We give because we belong to one another. We give because all are invited into God's house. So let us give our tithes and our offerings now.

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

“The Star Carol”

Alfred Burt

Long years ago on a deep winter night, high in the heav'ns a star
shone bright,
while in a manger a wee baby lay, sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.

Jesus the Lord was that baby so small, laid down to sleep in a humble stall;
then came the star and it stood overhead, shedding its light 'round
His little bed.

Dear baby Jesus, how tiny Thou art, I'll make a place for Thee in my heart,
and when the stars in the heavens I see, ever and always I think of Thee.

Wihla Hutson

Amy Finka, soprano

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)

Gracious God, Your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves,
to take up space, to go where we feel called, and to allow this community
to feel like home. So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With
gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.

Encountering the Living Word of God

THE NATIVITY STORY

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2: 1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world
should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while
Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.
Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of
David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family
of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and
who was expecting a child.

CAROL

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our LORD Emmanuel!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-11

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

CAROL

“The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest
Over Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:12-14

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:15-16

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

CAROL

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
‘Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.

O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star of royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
“Alleluia! Alleluia!” sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star of royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

MEDITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

J.S. Bach
arr. Bruce Nelson

Responding to God's Word & Call

The Sacrament of Communion

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

God of shepherds and angels,
God of starlight and seekers,
God of mangers and unwed teenage mothers:
It is Christmas.
We are close to home.

It feels like we have been waiting so long for this day. Amidst the hustle and bustle of this busy season, we have been waiting for a quiet, a calm, a stillness. We have been waiting for good news that changes us and for the undeniable sense that you are near. So in this moment, surrounded by community, in the presence of hallelujahs, we bow our heads and give thanks:

Thank you, God, for the places and people that feel like home. Thank you for the hope on the horizon which carries us through. Thank you for moments of worship that break open our hearts. Thank you for the joy of children on this night, which reminds us of love. And thank you for the stars in the sky which remind us of you. We have so much to be grateful for. However, even amidst our prayers of gratitude and joy, we also bring you prayers of concern. For when the music is quiet and the clouds clear, we can finally hear our own thoughts and see sky above us, and that is when there is enough space for hurt to float to the surface.

We lift up prayers this Christmas Day for:

(the people lift their prayers aloud)

We know we are close to home, God, but we also know we are not home yet and that truth aches in us. So many of us are still seeking, still looking for a place to belong, still searching for a faith that feels like home. We are closer to home, but we're not there yet. We are only truly home when we are with you. So God of starlight and angel choruses, on this Christmas, as you come dwell among us, we pray that you would bring us closer to home. Scoop us up. Draw us in. Build the world you have in mind for us. Hover here. Hear our prayers. Take this grief and pain off of our shoulders and hold our hands as we

walk through the dark. It is Christmas. We can feel it—we are close to home. So together, with hope in our hearts, we pray the prayer your son taught us to pray, 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.

*Closing Hymn #40 “Joy to the World!”

***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 Allegro from *Christmas Concerto* Arcangelo Corelli
arr. Bruce Nelson

(Please remain seated during the closing voluntary.)

<p><i>Flowers for today’s service were donated by Irene and Ridley Wills in memory of Jesse Wills II.</i></p>

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

41

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,
 *3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est!

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -
 dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

*Alternate harmonization and descant for stanza 3, 42

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
And heaven and na - ture sing,

And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,



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.”



DPC 2021 Christmas Services Schedule

Christmas Eve

Sanctuary Candlelight Service 6:00pm

Christmas Day

Chapel Service 10:00am

December 26th

Sunday Worship 11:00am

(26th will be streamed via Facebook only)



Please join us in worship!



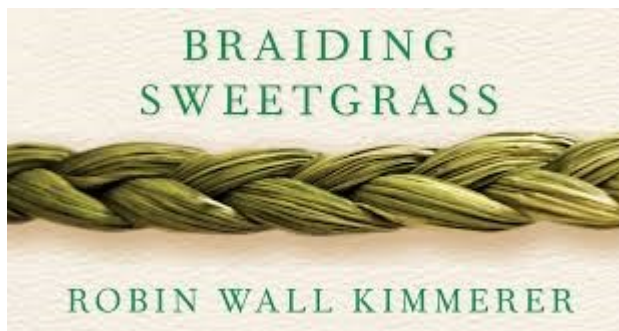
MERRY CHRISTMAS

To our church family:

*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.



DPC Book Club: *Braiding Sweetgrass*
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

DPC's book club will meet on **Thursday, January 6th** at 6:30 p.m. via zoom.
We will be discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

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

For our full set of procedures please visit www.dpchurch.com under Events/ Covid Safety.

- 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.