



CHOSEN HOME

First Sunday After Christmas



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Sunday After Christmas

Gathering in God's Name

WELCOME/INVITATION TO SET THE SPACE

- * Light the Advent wreath
- * If no Advent wreath at home, light a candle, pour a cup of tea, silence your phone
- * Families can make a blanket fort
- * Today, home is particularly sacred, let it be so.

OPENING OUR MINDS & HEARTS TO MAKE SPACE FOR GOD

- * Take out a piece of paper or your journal and write anything and everything that comes into your mind for the length of the opening voluntary. Children can draw whatever they like.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on *God Rest Ye Merry* from A Christmas Suite

Gordon Young

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God,
Even here, even now, you are with me.
And so I pray— hover over this swirl of words that make up a prayer.
Read between the lines.
See what weighs heavy on me.
Know what distracts, and carry it all.
I am giving it to you.
I am clearing out space.
I am opening myself up to draw closer to your home.
Gratefully I pray, Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“Let Us Go to God's Home”
Amy Finka, cantor

CALL TO CONFESSION (people read bold)

God of ancient blessing, Christmas day has come and gone,
Yet we continue in a whirlwind of activity,
Even as we begin to return to our winter routines.
In the midst of the busyness
we sometimes miss what it is all about—
you coming to earth—Emmanuel—God-with-us.
Help us hear anew
your promises of hope and salvation and love
as we sing our familiar carols.
We listen in this moment of silence...
Forgive us for forgetting the wonder
of the miracle of Jesus' birth.
Rock us out of our complacency.
Let us hear angel voices,
see shepherds hurrying to a stable,
feel the baby's soft breath on our cheeks,
and ponder in our hearts what all this means
for the world, for us. 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, you are called to
be free. Serve one another humbly therefore for the entirety of the law is
summed up in one word in this - *love your neighbor.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: In the spirit of the joy of Christ's birth, let us greet one another.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

*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

Luke 2:41-52

L: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. P: Glory to you, O Lord.

PRAYER PRACTICE

Sacred Imagination

HOLDING SOME HELPFUL QUESTIONS

1. Jesus stays behind in the temple when his parents head home. Why do you think Jesus stays?
2. In this story, we get a glimpse of Jesus coming into his own self. He is on his own, listening, and asking questions. And “all who heard him were amazed at his answers” (Luke 2:47). What spaces have allowed you to be who you are truly called to be? Where do you feel the freedom to come into your own being? List those places. Reflect on what makes those spaces unique.
3. Jesus refers to the temple as a house—God’s house. In your experience, has the church been a home for you? If so, how? If not, why not? What steps need to be taken to allow all churches to reflect the same welcome, safety, and security of a loving home?

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Chorale Prelude on *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Marcel Dupré

SERMON

“I Must Be In God’s House”

Responding to God’s Word & Call

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

God With Us, there are a million ways to choose a home. We choose to make it work. We hang a wreath on the door of our shoebox apartment. We invite company over. We ask, “Would you like coffee with that?” We choose to make the most of it. We take up water coloring or kickboxing and show up to class. We mostly embarrass ourselves, but we were there. We choose to not go it alone. We hold in prayer all those with whom we choose to be faith family, and everyone else besides, in this moment of silence...

We pray, too, the prayer you taught us long ago,

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

Beloved, there are a million ways to choose a home. We sign up to volunteer and make ourselves a nametag. We slide weary bones into weary church pews. We shake hands and say hello. We let the music cover us, like a blanket, or a prayer. We choose to love what we have. We look in the mirror and speak kindly to our body. We buy flowers at the market and arrange them in jelly jars. Come, let us choose our home again, and offer to interweave our lives and abundance with it. We are needed here.

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 “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

Amy Finka, soprano

***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*)**

O God Who Has Chosen Us, there are a million ways to choose a home. So like Jesus in the temple who chose to stay, who chose to speak, who took up space because he knew he was home, thank you for helping us to do the same. Invite us again to put our body where our soul feels alive. Give us permission to take up space there. Encourage us to stay, as long as it takes. Remind us to return, as often as we need. Amen.

Invitations & Announcements

Worship calls us outside ourselves to connect with others and the world. To close the service, think of a person or a place that has helped you be your true self or has made you feel at home, just as Jesus was being his true self and felt at home in the temple. Send them a text, write them a letter to mail, or call them to thank them for their grace and welcome.

***Closing Hymn**

“Chosen Home”
Amy Finka, cantor

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

L: As we end 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

Fanfare on *O Come, All Ye Faithful* from A Christmas Suite Gordon Young

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

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

Confession by Rev. Dr. Joanne Carlson Brown adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*, © 2008 Abingdon Press by Rev. Larissa Romero



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.”

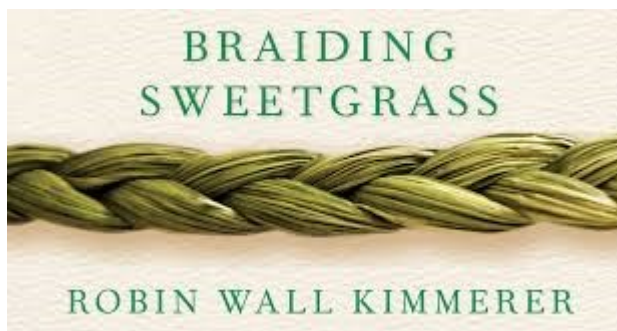


MERRY CHRISTMAS
To our church family:

*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.



10 Ways to Connect with The Downtown Presbyterian Church

1. Join us for Sunday Worship.

We have resumed in-person worship each Sunday at 11am. (*except for 12/26, which will be virtual only.*) Childcare is available during worship. We'd love to welcome you to DPC! Bring a friend and check us out!

2. Subscribe to the DPC newsletter & e-votion.

To get subscribed, email info@dpchurch.com. Each Monday we email an event-centric newsletter with committee updates, church activities, and more. The e-votion that is sent out on Fridays is your guide to the upcoming Sunday service, along with the weekly prayer list.

3. Like us on Facebook.

From our Facebook page, you can view services live on Sundays at 11am or catch up on previous services at your convenience. We also post announcements and share events for our Outreach Partner Organizations and more! Unfortunately, there are currently 2 Facebook pages for DPC. We are working on fixing the issue, but for now *double check you've got the right page when tagging DPC.*

4. Save your bulletins.

Your church bulletin is more than an order of worship. In the back of each week's bulletin, we have a list of upcoming events and activities. There's even a QR code you can scan that directs you to the digital calendar of upcoming events.

5. Grab a monthly calendar from the narthex.

We created a special paper calendar noting everything happening at DPC this month. Pick one up to stick on your fridge or take a pic to have on your phone. Committee meetings, special events, and worship services - it's all there on one handy page!

6. Bookmark our website - www.dpchurch.com.

We are working hard to get our website updated and revised to better meet the needs of the congregation. For starters, we are sprucing up the homepage & beefing up the calendar.

7. Get involved by volunteering or joining a committee.

We have a quick volunteer interest form on our webpage to help connect you with a committee, mission, ministry, or preferred area of service at DPC.

8. Utilize the DPC Directory.

Make sure your information is up to date in our new online membership directory. It's a handy resource for calling or sending letters to your church family members! For more information, or to get started, email info@dpchurch.com.

9. Follow @dpcnashville on Instagram and subscribe to our Youtube channel.

While we don't post on these accounts quite as regularly, these social media channels are still a great way to stay connected to DPC.

10. Check out The Browsing Room Gallery.

The Browsing Room is where we exhibit work curated by our Artists-in-Residence. It's open during the first Saturday of the month as part of the First-Bank First Saturday Art Crawl, and each Sunday morning. For extra credit, consider following @browsingroomgallery which is the Instagram account for DPC's art gallery.

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.