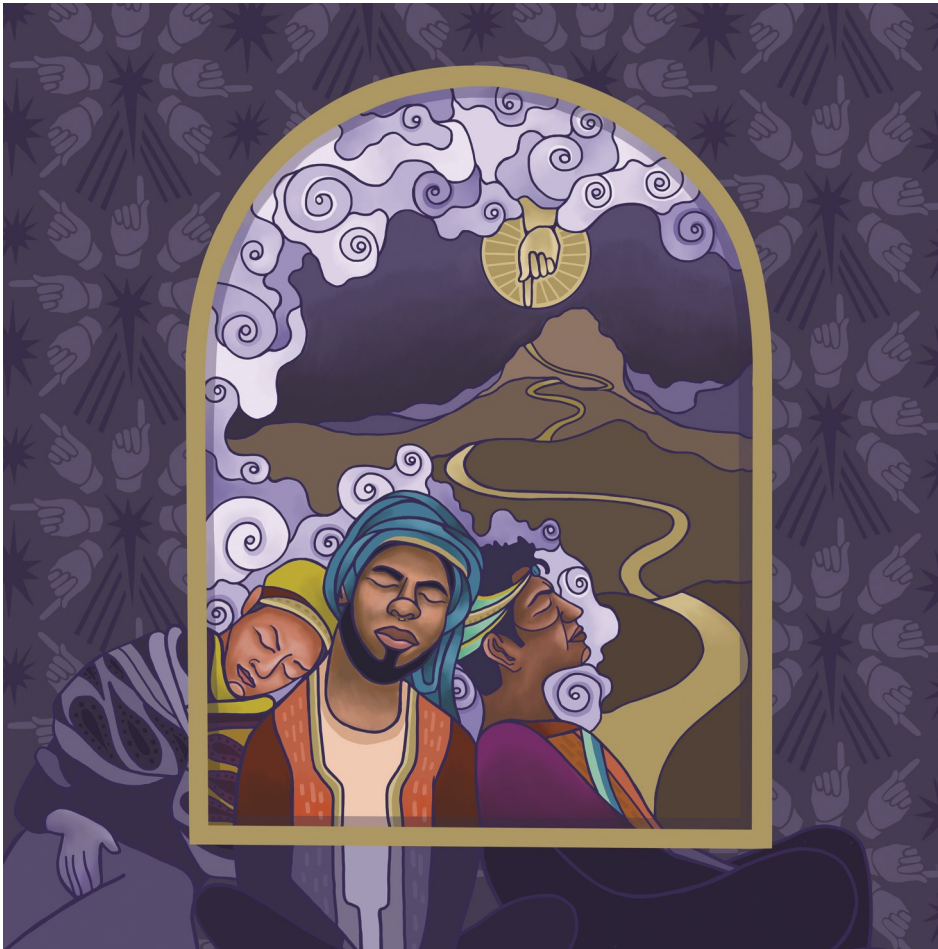




Home By ANOTHER way

Epiphany



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2, 2022

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

Chorale Prelude on *We Three Kings of Orient Are* Raymond H. Haan

(Please meditate silently during the Opening Voluntary.)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come to this place—

P: each of us on our own path.

L: The path is winding,

P: and the path is not always clear,

L: and the path changes,

P: but we are here.

L: God is walking us home.

**P: What a gift it is
to not walk alone.**

L: Let us worship Holy God.

*OPENING HYMN

“Home by Another Way”

Amy Finka, cantor

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: I imagine that, for the Magi, walking to Bethlehem was not easy.

I imagine that following a star for navigation was definitely not easy.

However, I imagine that the hardest part might have been not knowing where the road would lead.

Friends, we are not always the best versions of ourselves when we are faced with uncertainty or changing plans. Facing the unknown pulls on every ounce of our anxiety and fear. It rings all our stress alarms and can erode our patience, our calm, our sense of perspective.

Fortunately for us, we worship a God who is gracious beyond imagination and meets us on every twist and turn of the road home.

So let us pray together now, knowing that even in our worst moments, we are held by God.

P: God of changed plans,

The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—
a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did
just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way.
We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not,
when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on
tighter. Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us
for ignoring that there is more than one road home. Forgive us for
failing to hear your invitation. We listen now in this moment of silence...
Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life,
God walks with us. God never leaves our side. When the road changes and
we find ourselves on a new path home, God is always there.
So hear and believe this good news:

P: No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved,
and held by God.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: In the spirit of peace and love, let us greet one another.
May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Remain in your pew as we share signs.

***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

Matthew 2:1-12

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

PRAYER PRACTICE

Sacred Imagination

QUESTIONING PRACTICE

Responding to God's Word & Call

*HYMN

"Wherever You Go"

Amy Finka, cantor

The Sacrament of Communion

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

God of The Way,
We all have roads we travel.
We travel emotional roads—
the narratives we tell ourselves,
the mental places we revisit again and again,
the assumptions and the fears we know by heart.
Then there are physical roads—
the places in our lives that we walk every day,
grocery stores and coffee stands,
subways and carpool lines.
And then there are roads of our society—
the paths carved out that we are expected to follow,
dress and etiquette, education and rules,
so many things unspoken, but built in stone all the same.
So today we remember the Magi—
who traveled, who knows how long, down a dusty road to get to you.
Holy God, we too want to be people that travel
mental, physical, and cultural roads to get to you.
We want to gather in your sanctuary. We want to remember you in our prayers.

We want our hearts to know the way home,
the way back to you, by perfect memory.
Help us get to that place, for we long to be journeying toward you.
In addition to the road the Magi traveled to you,
we also remember the road they took home—
a road home by another way.
So, God, when the world cries out for violence and vengeance,
show us that road—show us home by another way.
And when the world cries out in scarcity and fear,
show us that road—show us home by another way.
And when we find ourselves on a path that could hurt us,
show us that road—show us home by another way.
We lift up prayers on this journey for:
(the people lift their prayers aloud)
God we are walking.
This life is a journey.
Be in our steps, that we might be led to you.
Be in our eyes, that we might see you.
Be in our hearts, that we might be brave enough to go home by another way.
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

The Magi came bearing gifts, because that is what we do when we love someone. We prepare. We celebrate. We drop off casseroles and flowers. We bring gifts. It has always been that way. So today, we are invited to do the same for God. We are invited to bring our gifts as a sign of our love. And instead of gold, we'll give our tithes and offerings. Instead of frankincense, we'll give our talents and our energy. Instead of myrrh, we'll give our time. We give because we love. It has always been that way. 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

Jesu Parvule
translation = Poor Little Jesus

Alfred Burt

Jesu parvule on Thy couch of hay.
Greet we Thee today, sweet Son of Mary.
Be Thy slumber deep while fair angels keep
vigil o'er Thy sleep, blest Babe of Mary.

'Tis Thy joy to see Kings on bended knee,
off'ring gifts to Thee, sweet Son of Mary.
But Thou may'st not know what these gifts foreshow
of Thy future woe, blest Babe of Mary.

Let this gold the while with its glint beguile,
Thy dear lips to smile, sweet Son of Mary.
May no shadow gray, cloud one happy day
of Thine infant play, blest Babe of Mary.

Bates G. Burt

Amy Finka, cantor

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)

God of new beginnings,
We offer these gifts to you today because we love you.
The world will tell us to keep our money to ourselves,
to hold it tight, to tuck it away,
but just as the Magi made a different choice, we make a different choice.
Instead, we give what we have,
trusting that when we live like we belong to one another,
we will see a better world.
So take these gifts
and use them for your good.
With hope we pray, amen.

Invitations & Announcements

*Closing Hymn #315 “In the Midst of New Dimensions”
Amy Finka, cantor

*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

Chorale Prelude on *The Star Proclaims the King Is Here* Johann Pachelbel
(Please remain seated during the closing voluntary.)



Epiphany

Home By Another Way

Home By Another Way

KINGS OF ORIENT 8.8.4.4.6 with refrain

Text: Anna Strickland (2021)

Music: John Henry Hopkins (1857)

Ma - gi from a far - a - way place
Threat - ened by the good news they bring
Plans that change and storms that de - lay

Ra - diant star - light set-ting their pace Ford - ing wa - di,
Her - od plots to kill the new king An - gels warn - ing
Dreams and hopes left in dis - ar - ray Make us trem - ble,

risk - ing bo - dy Seek-ing the king's birth - place
in the mor - ning: "A-void Je - ru - sa - lem"
but re-mem - ber There is a - noth - er way

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We have trav - eled night and day

Meet - ing God where - e'er we stay Paths are chan - ging,

re - ar - ran - ging As we find a - noth - er way

Wherever You Go

$\text{♩} = 120$
Unison

Wher - ev - er you go, God is with you; wher -

ev - er you go, God is there. Wher - ev - er you go, what -

ev - er you do, you are in God's care.

Suggested use: close of worship, retreat, interfaith service

WORDS and MUSIC: Barbara Hamm

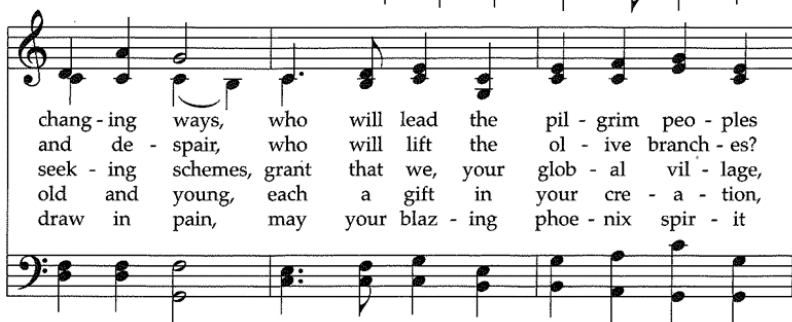
Words and Music © 2006 Hope Publishing Company

WHEREVER YOU GO

315 In the Midst of New Dimensions




1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
 2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions,
 3 As we stand, a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
 4 We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -



chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
 and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
 seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
 old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
 draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

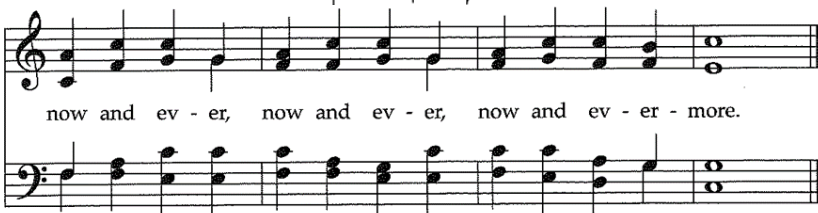
Refrain



wan - der - ing in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will light the flame of care?
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fi - ery pil - lar,
 each a love song to be sung.
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney



now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

2022

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

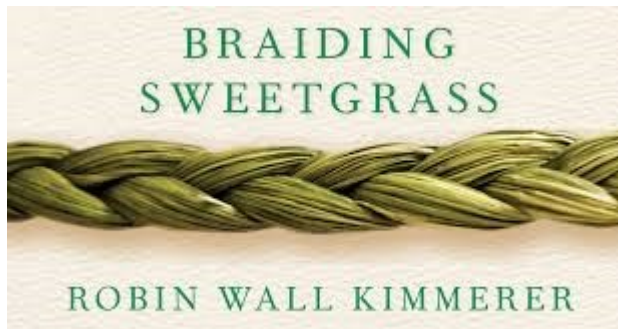


Copies of the January Calendar
are available in the narthex.



Elders Installed Next Week

Please join us next week for the installation of Betty McConnell and Denny Harris who have graciously agreed to serve on session.



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.



DPC Committee Corner

Come be a part of the conversations that create DPC's future! All meeting 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, January 10th at 7:00pm via Zoom
- **Communications** - Tuesday, January 11th at 5:00pm via Zoom
- **Outreach** - Wednesday, January 12th at 5:30pm via Zoom
- **Fish & Loaves** - Thursday, January 13th at 6:30pm via Zoom
- **Session** - Tuesday, January 18th at 6:30pm via Zoom

Current Worship Procedures

Due to the Covid positivity rate in our area being above 10%, **masks and social distancing are required.**

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.

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.