THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday After Epiphany January 9, 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

Prayer in B-Flat Major, Op.47, no.4 Alexandre Guilmant (Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary.)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: The longest stretch of night is over. New Hope rises for each of us.
- P: We are blessed for big dreams.
- L: We are marked by God as disciples
- P: God has entrusted us with God's own message of hope.
- L: Come, Spirit of God, and rest upon us.
- P: Encourage us to be people of your adventurous good news.

*HYMN #24 "God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" Ryan Norris, cantor

CALL TO CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sky-shattering God, we confess that we have not always paid much attention to the baptism of Jesus, but viewed it as a nice story which begins Jesus' ministry. We don't always see ourselves as standing in that long line of those marked for service; and therefore it is easy for us to dismiss this as a nice story and nothing more. Yet you have called us by name, knowing each of us, and loving us. We are astonished by this. We know that we have behaved in very unloving ways and in some behaviors which do not promote your love and peace. Forgive us for our blindness. Turn us around. Help us to be people who

not only recognize the light, but who are willing to live in that light, bringing help to others in your name. For we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator. You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others. Be at peace and live in hope. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Remain in your pew as we share signs.

AFFIRMATION OF GOD IN THE GATHERING "We Shall Be Known"

We shall be known by the company we keep By the ones who circle round to tend these fires We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap The seeds of change alive from deep within the Earth

It is time now
It is time now that we thrive
It is time we lead ourselves into the well
It is time now
And what a time to be alive
In this "Great Turning" we shall learn to lead in love
In this "Great Turning" we shall learn to lead in love

Encountering the Living Word of God

SCRIPTURE READING Like 3:15-17, 21-22

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

QUESTIONING PRACTICE

SERMON "Blessed for the Big Dreams"

Responding to God's Word & Call

*HYMN

"We Shall Be Known"
Ryan Norris, cantor

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

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

Your word of light and hope outpours into our lives, O God. On this day of celebration, you remind us that we are marked by you to be witnesses to your light of new hope. As the heavens opened at Jesus' baptism, so is your love poured out on us. Together we pray for:

(the people lift their prayers aloud)

We have honored the incredible gifts you share with us. We have brought before you names and situations which concern us, people who face illness and grief, whose lives are torn by poverty, war, alienation, addiction, and hopelessness. We ask for your loving mercy on them, O Lord. Heal them and bind up their wounds. Help us to be people who are ready to thrive in the hearing and sharing of your good news, bringing the light of your hope to the world we share. We ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

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

Into the midst of our fear, Christ comes to encourage us. Whatever barriers to love and justice dwell among us, so too do the promises of God. The one who has sustained the saints for centuries still lives among us today. With joy and thanksgiving, let us bring together what we have.

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".

- When Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized by John, God's love surrounded those who gathered there.
- The Spirit of the Lord descended as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, saying:
- "This is My beloved Son, Who is pleasing in My sight. This is My beloved Son, in Him I am well pleased."
- As Christians follow Christ's example and come to be baptized, His love is there to guide them on their way.
- Bestow, O God, the gift of wonder and of joy on each lamb of Your Own calling.
- "This is My beloved child, who is precious in My sight. This is My beloved child, in whom I am well pleased."

Text derived from Matthew 3:13-17 by Jane Foster Knox Ryan Norris, cantor

*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)

Christ Among Us, just as we begin to feel confident in our despair or sure of our disbelief, you surprise us again. Your presence appears and points us to possibilities for new life where we least expect it. In awe, we bring our gifts and pray we will be faithful in welcoming your miracles among us. Amen.

Invitations & Announcements

*Hymn #840

"It Is Well With My Soul"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: When the Real Good begins to feel out of reach,

when collective change seems impossible,

or hope is hard to find,

Christ whispers "peace, peace" among us.

Not to dull our need to feel sorrow, or to quell necessary conflict,

but to remind us again of what's so easily forgotten:

Love is still alive.

The Good News always makes us new,

Always reveals marvels,

Always invigorates and invites.

With the Spirit of this Good News that sustains and guides, go with confidence.

And may all God's people say.

P: Alleluia, Amen.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Processional March in A Major, Op.45, no.5 Alexandre Guilmant

(Please remain seated during the closing voluntary.)

"We Shall Be Known" by MaMuse

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, & Assurance of Pardon from prayers by Elder Nancy C. Townley, adapted by Rev. Larissa Romero

Tithes & Offerings & Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication by enfleshed, adapted by Rev. Larissa Romero

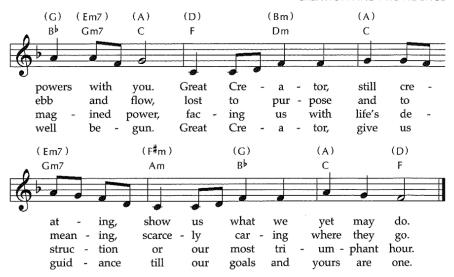
Benediction from words by Simone Weil, adapted by Rev. Larissa Romero

24 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



The crux of this text comes in the second stanza: if we dare to claim God-given abilities, we need also to show God-like compassion for the human needs that confront us daily. The earthy shape note tune provides a further reminder that we must not lose our heads in the clouds.

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE



We Shall Be Known

Ma Muse



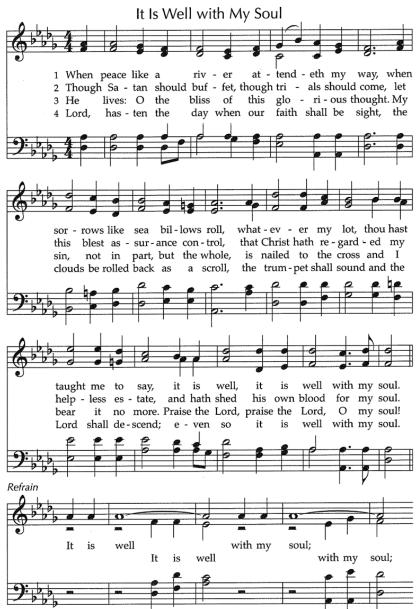








When Peace like a River



This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD





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.





Co-op Bible Study w/ George Schmidt & special guests

A part of building up our adaptive skills in this transformative transition includes learning new and creative ways of engaging with our community. Co-ops share a lot in common with churches, and there are actually more than a few theological imperatives to engage in these kinds of partnerships.

Nashville scholars and organizers from Vanderbilt Divinity School, the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice, and the Southeast Center for Cooperative Development have come together to create a Bible Study series on the relationship between cooperative economics and Christian theology.

If interested in this cutting-edge work, join us on Sunday mornings from January 30th - February 27th at 9:45am am for this 5-week long Bible study series led by George Schmidt with guests from the partner organizations above.



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

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Erin Bell	Tom Wills	Betty McConnell
Tom Byl	Samera Zavaro	Denny Harris
Jake Bvl	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.