

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27, 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 *Amazing Grace* Wilbur Held
(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary.)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God's reach is endless.

P: **God's mercy is unstoppable.**

L: God's grace is lavish.

P: **God's love is constant.**

L: God's wisdom is vast.

P: **God's hope is stubborn.**

L: God's presence is here—

P: **with us, among us, moving through us.**

L: Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

P: **We are in God's house.**

L: Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

*HYMN #771

“What Is the World Like”

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Parents will know what it's like to wait up for their child to meet curfew - they will tell you—they're standing at the door. The porch light is on. Friends, I think God is like that for us. The porch light is on. The door is unlocked. We might be late for curfew, but God is just so glad we're home. So let us pray in a moment of silence, trusting that no matter what we do or what we leave undone, the porch light is always on. . .

(collective moment of silence)

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

P: It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn't burned a bridge? Who among us hasn't forgotten that we belong to one another? Who among us has not ached for home? The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name. Forgive us God. We want to come home. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of faith, the word 'prodigal' can be defined as wasteful or imprudent, hence the name, "Prodigal Son." However, 'prodigal' can also be described as extravagant and excessive. Friends, we worship a prodigal God—a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace. For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us. The doors are open. The feast is for you. This grace is extravagant. Thanks be to God, amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

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

WORDS OF WONDER “Remembering Your Baptism” Shannon White

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE VERSE “These Treasured Children”

*Come, Holy Spirit, help us be
a nurturing community.
Empower us to realize
God’s kingdom through our children’s eyes.*

FIRST READING 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
L: The Word of the Lord. P: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
L: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. P: Glory to you, O Lord.

QUESTIONING PRACTICE

SERMON “Prodigal Grace” Rev. Larissa Romero

Responding to God's Word & Call

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Margaret Stuart "Maisie" Henderson

BAPTISM HYMN #488 "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

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

God of open doors,
We often long to come home
to you, to love, and to ourselves.
In this spirit of longing and love we pray for:
(the people lift their prayers aloud)
O God, you wait in the driveway for us.
You leave the porch light on and throw a feast when we are found.
You don't stop looking for us when we get lost.
You are a God of prodigal grace—
excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.
In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other. We remember that
humans are not meant to go through life alone; so we look for ways to
welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with grace—
excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.
We pray into this calling as you taught us to pray...

**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, we aren't always sure how to get home. Sometimes there is a clear path. Sometimes we must build it to house our mutual belonging. Let us bring our tithes and offerings to celebrate building a home of extravagant welcome for each of us.

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

Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts Henry Purcell

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts. Shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers, but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty. O holy and most merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death to fall from thee. Amen.

Sentences from the Burial Service

***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*)

Wondrous God, we thank you for your extravagant grace. May we be awestruck by what comes of our generosity working in your Spirit. Amen.

Announcements & Invitations

***Hymn #649** “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: As you leave this place,
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.
May you overflow with love for those around you.
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.
And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,
and may it change your life.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—
go in peace, full to the brim.
And may all God's people say.

P: Amen.

Good Friday Cottage Dinners

We are excited to announce that we're bringing back our tradition of offering Good Friday Cottage Dinners! We have hosts in a variety of locations who are excited to open their homes to share a meal & time of devotion. Our Director of Education, Shannon White, is working on the details for a family-friendly event. Pastor Larissa will host a Good Friday Cottage Dinner at DPC. All evening meals will begin at 6:30pm. All other sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please email events@dpchurch.com.

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

Music led by DPC Adult Choir

"We Shall Be Known" Used with permission from MaMUSE

Chorale Prelude on *Amazing Grace*. Music: Wilbur Held

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Music: Carlton R. Young, 1964, 1965. © 1965, The Copyright Company

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Hymn 487 These Treasured Children. Text: Jacque B. Jones

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Hymn 488 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry. Text and Music: John C. Ylvisaker

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Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts

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What Is the World Like 771

Capo 1: (G) A^b (Em7) Fm7 (C) D^b (D) E^b

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) Fm (C) D^b (Am) B^bm (B7) C7

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) Fm (Am) B^bm (D) E^b (G) A^b

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) D^b (Em7) Fm7 (Am7) B^bm7 (D) E^b (G) A^b

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

We Shall Be Known

Ma Muse

G C G

We shall be known by the compan - ny we keep by the

3 G D G

ones who cir - cle round to tend these fires

5 G D G

We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap the seeds of

We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap the seeds of

7 C D G

change a - live from deep with - in the earth

change a - live from deep with - in - the earth

Alto

C G , C G C D⁷

It is timenow it is time now that we thrive it is time we lead our-selves in-to the

It is timenow it is time now that we thrive it is time we lead our selves in to the

12 G C G C G

well It is time now and what a time to be a - live

well It is time now__and what a time to be a - live

repeat second time only

C D Em

in this great turn - ing we shall learn to lead in love

in this great turn - ing we shall learn to lead in love

C D D⁷ G

in this great turn-ing we shall learn to lead in love

In this great Turn-ing we shall learn to lead in love

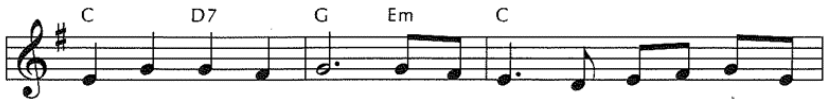
488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry



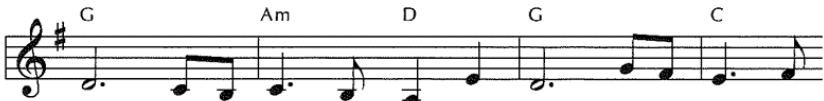
1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -



see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did' that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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 2022

Erin Bell
Tom Byl
Jake Byl

Class of 2023

Tom Wills
Samera Zavaro

Class of 2024

Betty McConnell
Denny Harris

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Larissa Romero, Pastor
Dena Swoner, Office Manager
Shannon White, Dir. of Education

Dr. William Taylor, Dir. of Music
Paulino Jarquin, Maintenance Manager
Rainwater Morehead, A/V Tech

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.