

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Maundy Thursday
April 14, 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

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: A call to worship is a call to presence.

P: **We long to be fully present here, and to feel God's presence here.**

L: Notice the space around us, the way it looks, smells, and sounds.

P: **With all our senses, we recognize a sacred space and our belonging in it.**

L: We gather as good creation, wonderfully made.

P: **We join our bodies into one body as we remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

OPENING RITUAL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Confession returns us to our bodies by reminding us that God claims us, exactly as we are. Through repentance, we name that which we have left undone and ask for the help of God and our community to seek repair, restoration, and renewal. Let us pray together our prayer of confession:

P: **Loving God, you pour out grace upon us exactly as we are,
but we confess we are suspicious and react from fear of scarcity.**

**You invite us to take our shoes off
and receive the care our bodies' need,
but we sit on our heels.**

**We sort bodies into worthy and unworthy ones
to mask our insecurities,
even when these bodies are our very own.**

continued

God, remind us that we are made in your image.
Help us learn to receive from your abundance
so we can share all that we have with others.
Let us see that the cups we longingly hold out
are already full.

May they overflow so that all will have enough!

L: As he does with Peter in the foot washing, Jesus transforms our confusion and rejection into joy and connection. With God's help and mercy, we can reciprocate abundance with one another and with Creation.

In Jesus Christ we are loved and befriended by God.

P: Thanks be to God, amen.

Encountering the Living Word of God

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-17

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

PRAYER PRACTICE

Sacred Imagination

Responding to God's Word & Call

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

God among us,

When we cry out for justice, you hear us.

When we fall to our knees, you witness us.

When we lean into your comfort, you hold us.

When we lose our way, you guide us.

Hear our prayers. Stay with us here

as we seek your way toward hope and wholeness.

We name, O God, that at times it is hard to stay loving
in the face of cruelty, neglect, and harm.

Yet even when Jesus knew his friends would betray and abandon him, he
showed us how to center our whole selves in your love
instead of the hatred of people and the injustice of systems of power.

May we go and do likewise, as he called us to do, so that our love for others
will be a testimony to all you have done in our lives.

Through the life and ministry of Jesus,

you taught us how to love fiercely,
how to honor one another fully,
and how to serve with humility and kindness.
Through grace, you join us together as one body.
Be with us today and every day as we seek to pour out love as disciples of
Jesus. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: God who took on flesh and lived among us, we greet you in worship. We greet you as a Creator who made us good in our bodies; we greet you as a Redeemer who was perfectly divine and totally human; we greet you as a Sustainer, an advocate, a helper who surrounds us in all our ways and all our days. We come in our bodies of all sizes, races, genders, abilities, sexualities, ages, and appearances, so that we might join with your body as we encounter you tangibly, through bread and wine. Through this joyful feast, you fill our spirits to overflowing.

Help us to embrace the mystery of the sacrament as the symbolic and literal blur together until all that remains is your presence with us. We do not come to the Table with perfect understanding. Some of us come with child-like faith; some of us wrestle with questions and doubts; some of us bear wounds that make us suspicious of this act. With your grace we trust the sacred possibilities that become tangible when we eat the bread and drink from the cup. We have hope that in doing this, we might gain a glimpse of all that you offer to us. We give thanks for the familiarity of rituals and ask that we would continuously notice the possibilities you offer in them. Be with us as we pray the familiar prayer that Jesus 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.**

Announcements & Invitations

Remembering Our Baptism

With simple elements and simple acts, Jesus flipped the scripts of power to bring about new possibilities for God's love in the world. Before his betrayal and death, Jesus touched his followers and sealed their connection. Jesus taught us to wash one another's feet so that we might witness each other's goodness and be made clean. Through the waters of baptism, God claims us as God's own and marks the calling for our lives onto our bodies. Together, we will remember our baptisms. First, let us pray: God who poured forth water, God who formed each one of us, we give you thanks for the sacrament of Baptism. Allow the cool drip of water on our bodies to bring us closer to you so that we might live as your people, with justice, kindness, and humility. As we remember your promises to us, renew in us a heart of compassion for others and help us recognize your presence in all whom we meet. Amen. At this time, we invite you come up to mutually wash your feet.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

L: Jesus chose to use his final hours to establish intimate and profound physical connections with his friends. In the midst of this connection, he offered a new commandment: to love others as he loves us. This is not an abstract, sentimental love. This is bread-breaking, foot-washing, messy love. We have visited the font, we have been nourished at the Table, and now we go out into the world to live out Jesus's commandment. As we leave this place, may the presence of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer fill the nooks and crannies of our lives.

Go in love!

P: We go out together in love. Amen.

Holy Week Schedule

We are planning a variety of worship services to help us observe Holy Week as a church family. We hope you will plan to join us for one or more of the following events.

Good Friday Gathering for Families:

We welcome you to join us at Shelby Park on Good Friday, April 15th from 11:00am - 12:30pm for arts and crafts. This gathering is for our families with children. Lunch will be served. Shelter Location: Missions Shelter
In case of extreme weather gathering will be at DPC.

Good Friday Cottage Dinners:

We have hosts in various areas of town and Rev. Romero will host a dinner at DPC. All evening meals will begin at 6:30. Signup sheets are in the narthex. If you have any questions, please email events@dpchurch.com.

Easter Sunday:

- Easter egg hunt in the Sanctuary at 9:30am for ages 14 and under.
- Congregational breakfast in the fellowship hall at 9:45 - *In lieu of Sunday School, all are invited to join the congregational breakfast.*
- Worship Service at 11am

JOIN US FOR AN



EASTER EGG HUNT

EASTER SUNDAY AT 9:30AM
IN THE SANCTUARY

WE WILL HAVE OUR TRADITIONAL EGG HUNT IN THE SANCTUARY ON EASTER MORNING AT 9:30. CHILDREN WILL NEED A BASKET, BUT IF THEY FORGET ONE, EXTRAS WILL BE AVAILABLE. AS A REMINDER, IF YOU PICKED UP A BAG OF EASTER EGGS TO FILL, PLEASE RETURN THEM TO SHANNON WHITE BY SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH.

Changes to COVID Procedures

After great consideration, the session has approved or implemented the following changes to our COVID procedures. In many ways we are returning to our pre-pandemic practices!

- Social distancing yarn/signs have been removed from the sanctuary.
- Masks are now optional for staff, guests, volunteers, etc., and those attending Sunday worship services.
- We continue to recommend that anyone who is not vaccinated wear a mask within the building.
- Masks will continue to be required for nursery workers.
- In April we will return to pre-COVID communion procedures, and will have self-serve communion containers available for those who prefer them.

Any further updates will be posted in a similar manner to these changes. The session appreciates your prayers & support as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.