

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 LEADERSHIP

Class of 2023

Tom Wills
Samera Zavaro

Class of 2024

Betty McConnell
Denny Harris

Class of 2025

John Booth
Tara Herbert

Erin Bell, Clerk of Session

Rachel Hayes, Church Treasurer

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Zach Sasser, Pastor
Dr. William Taylor, Dir. of Music
Paulino Jarquin, Building Manager
Rainwater Morehead, A/V Tech

PARKING FOR DPC ATTENDEES

Parking for Sunday worship is in the SP+ garage at **147 4th Ave. N.** The entrance is on 4th Avenue. Parking in this garage is complimentary on Sundays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you parked in the SP+ garage today, please ask a greeter for a voucher sticker.

To learn more about the missions and ministries of DPC, visit: **dpchurch.com**



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent
December 10th, 2023

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on "Lord Christ, The Only Son of God"
Johann Gottfried Walther

(Please meditate quietly during the Closing Voluntary)

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & CALL TO WORSHIP (PEOPLE READ BOLD)

L: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**P: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.**

L: The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us; God's face will shine, and we will be saved. (The second candle is lit.)
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.

P: Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God's holy name.

*HYMN # 85: LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH

*CALL TO CONFESSION

L: How shall we prepare the way of the Lord?

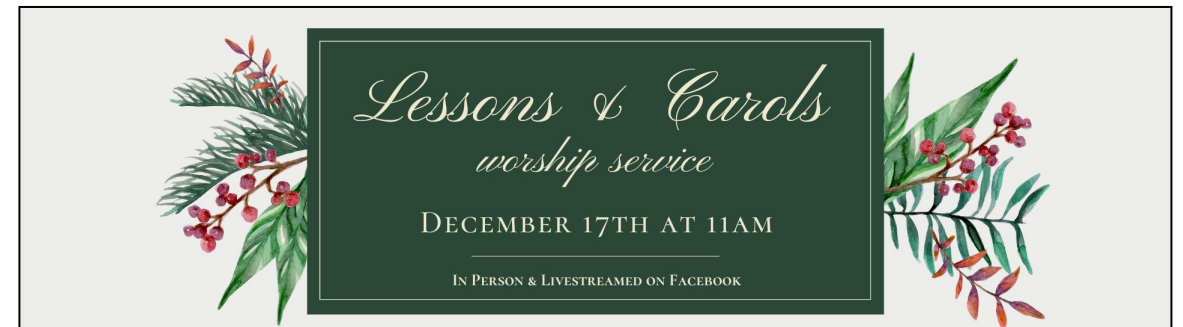
P: Let us confess the sins that separate us from God and one another.

Pastoral Care:

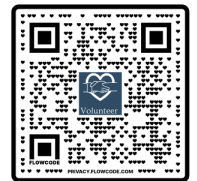
Please know that your needs are important to our church leaders and our new Pastor, Zach Sasser. You can still email your prayer requests and pastoral concerns to info@dpchurch.com, but you can also email Zach directly at pastor@dpchurch.com.

You are encouraged to address Zach in the manner you enjoy (Pastor, Rev., etc.). We are currently resolving a technical issue related to forwarding his DPC phone extension to his cell phone. In the mean time, he is checking it regularly. Members can find his cell number in the online directory if needed. You can also email him with a request to call you.

In all things, please know that you are loved, cherished, and valued by God and your elected leaders, which includes both the Session and Rev. Zach.



VOLUNTEER WITH US



You are invited to join DPC in ministry each Saturday morning from 8:30 to 10:30am. Help us serve a free meal and distribute essentials. Bring a friend, your family, co-workers or small group! Consider serving just one Saturday each quarter or perhaps once a month.

To donate directly to the ministry, text dpchurch to 73256, then select Fish & Loaves Meal Ministry from the drop-down menu.

The artwork on the cover of this week's bulletin is provided by Andrés Bustamante.
Prayers by enfleshed, adapted by David Maddox and Rev. Zach Sasser
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To offer your financial support to the ministry and mission of DPC:

- Text "dpchurch" to 73256
- Visit www.dpchurch.com and click "online giving"

Congregational Meeting: December 10th after Worship

A very quick congregational meeting will be held following worship to elect ruling elders. As with all congregational meetings, a quorum will be required. While only members can vote, everyone is encouraged to stay and attend.

We also appreciate the ruling elders who are rolling off of session: **Samera Zavaro** (co-chair of Personnel and Communications) and **Tom Wills** (co-chair of Missions).

Welcome Reception for Rev. Sasser



December 17th
following Lessons & Carols service

Save the date!

**BBQ MEET
& GREET**



A Note of Gratitude:

The Waffle Shop steering committee truly appreciates your overwhelming support of this year's Waffle Shop fundraiser for DPC's ministry to those in need. We don't yet know the amount raised or the exact number of people who attended. However, we do know it was an immense success in all the metrics that matter.

Thank you for coming. Thank you for donating. Thank you for spreading the word. And thank you for sharing the love of Christ with our community. Merry Christmas!

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*UNISON*)

O Lord, have mercy on the sins of your servants.

May we banish from our minds all disunion and strife;

may our souls be cleansed from all anger and malice toward others;

and may we find in the fellowship of worship oneness of mind and

peace with one another. Amen. (silent confession) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

*HYMN #581: 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.

Encountering the Living Word of God

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

L: Holy wisdom, holy word. P: Thanks be to God.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

L: The word of the Lord. P: Thanks be to God.

Mark 1:1-8

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

SERMON

REV. ZACH SASSER

Responding to God's Word and Call

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

MATT & AMANDA ABFALTER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God lifts up the lowly and brings down thrones on high. Dreaming together
of the world we might create anew The Spirit will be our guide.
In this spirit we pray for (the people lift their prayers aloud)
With Christ we pray the words shared with us long ago...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Holy God, whether it's through angels or music, friendships or sermons,
study or nature – when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic
and broken as ours, help us speak with our actions of hope and healing. We
bring our offerings with gratitude that they may be a material blessing to
our community.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Arise, Sons of the Kingdom”

Dietrich Buxtehude
arr. Paul G. Bunjes

Arise, sons of the Kingdom! The King is drawing nigh.
Arise, and hail with gladness the Ruler from on high.
Ye Christians, hasten forth! Your praise and homage bring Him
And glad hosannas sing Him, naught else your love is worth.

Be righteous, ye His subjects the King is just and true.
Prepare for Him a highway, make all things straight and new.
For, lo, He means it well; then willing bear the crosses
That He Himself imposes, not let your courage fail.

Johann Rist; trans. by Catherine Winkworth

*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.

Ben Kahan, bass

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**O God, we thank you for being one who knows our fears and says, “Be
not afraid.” We thank you for kicking off your shoes and wading into the
muck of our lives with us - for stitching yourself to our heels, and
inviting us to dance. We thank you for hemming stars into the night sky
so that we can find our way home, and for sending us friends with open
doors, so we can find our way to love. Help us use this offering to meet
others in their fear and remind them they are not alone. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

*HYMN #83: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: Let all God's people say, P: Alleluia, Amen!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on “Savior of the Nations Come”

Andreas Nikolaus Vette

(Please meditate quietly during the Closing Voluntary)