

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Epiphany Sunday

January 7th, 2023 (Broadcast for FB Livestream)

(* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.

Gathering in God's Name

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Wilbur Held

(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (PEOPLE READ BOLD)

L: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

P: the light no darkness can overcome.

L: Stay with us, Lord, and let your light scatter the darkness

P: so that our deeds will be seen in the light

*Hymn #151: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

vs.1,4-5 All; vs.2 men; vs. 3 women and children

*CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

P: Let our confession draw us into the light of God's love.

*CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of grace and mercy, we have heard your command to love as you have loved. While we, as a congregation, are doing our best to care for those in need, we sometimes forget how much we need you. Our thoughts betray us, our biases persist.

We define ourselves by our limitations rather than your unmeasurable grace. Hold us now in the light of your love, and bring us into greater solidarity with your good creation. Amen.

(Silent prayer) Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Beloved of God, thrill and rejoice in God's goodness!

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

***Hymn #113, vs. 3: "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Encountering the Living Word of God

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Matthew 2:1-12

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

SERMON:

Rev. Zach Sasser

Responding to God's Word & Call

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

Ting Jin Yong

We believe in Jesus Christ, our savior and liberator; the expression of God's redeeming and restoring love; the mark of humanness and the source of courage and power; God of God, light of light, ground of humanity.

We believe that God lives in broken homes and broken hearts, and suffers with us in our loneliness, rejection and powerlessness. Through death and resurrection, God gives life and dignity; transforms the context of our struggle, inspires the content of our vision, promises liberation to the oppressor and the oppressed, and grants new sight to the blind and hope to those in despair.

We believe in the activity of the Holy Spirit who revives our decaying souls, resurrects our defeated spirits, renews our hope for wholeness, and reminds us of our responsibility to work with God in ushering in God's new order here and now.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the boldness and confidence of God's children, I invite you to respond to the phrase "Gracious God, Lord of Light," with "Hear our prayer." Loving God, in Christ you embrace people of every nation... Having heard our petitions of prayer, hear us as we pray in the way Jesus instructed his followers, 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

Loving God, just as the magi brought gifts to Christ at his nativity we bring our gifts to honor you. While it is important to honor you with material wealth, we know that your true desire is for justice and righteousness; and so we offer these gifts for that purpose, and we make an offering of our hearts with commitments to live into the light of your love. With thankful hearts, we offer ourselves and our gifts to you, O God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “The Star Carol”

Alfred Burt

Long years ago on a deep winter night, high in the heav'ns a star shone bright,
While in a manger a wee baby lay, sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.

Jesus the Lord was that baby so small, laid down to sleep in a humble stall;
Then came the star and it stood overhead, shedding its light 'round His little bed.

Dear baby Jesus, how tiny Thou art, I'll make a place for Thee in my heart,
And when the stars in the heavens I see, ever and always I think of Thee

Wihla Hutson

Jessica Heim, mezzo-soprano Jen Peterson Morley, soprano

*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.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM DURING COMMUNION: “We Have Seen His Star”

Everett Titcomb

We have seen His star in the east and are come with our offerings
to worship the Lord.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

HYMN #152: “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

REV. ZACH SASSER

L: Wise people, you have found the light of God’s love.

P: We will go out as a people transformed by our vision.

L: We will go out to live and love and serve the Lord!

May the grace of God who creates hold you,

The mercy of God who redeems enfold you,

And the love of God who sustains enlighten you!

P: Alleluia! Amen!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Chorale Prelude on “Joy to the World”

Albin C. Whitworth

(Please meditate quietly during the Closing Voluntary)

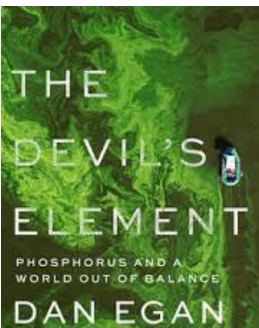
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To offer your financial support to the ministry and mission of DPC:

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

Prayers by Rev. Zach Sasser

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DPC BOOK GROUP

Devil's Element: Phosphorus & a World Out of Balance by Dan Egan

Join the discussion: January 9th, 6:30 p.m.

The Book Group does not meet at DPC. Email events@dpchurch.com for meeting details and additional information.

DPC Missions and Outreach:

As a downtown congregation, we believe God has called us to reach out into the surrounding community in support of Nashville's most vulnerable and marginalized residents. This is best achieved by partnering with dedicated non-profit organizations who have built up expertise and effectiveness in their field.



Monroe Harding
Homes • Healing • Opportunities

LAMBS CROFT

OPEN TABLE NASHVILLE



DPC is proud to support each of these local charities in addressing the needs of those struggling to live with burdens such as urban poverty, homelessness, addiction, & domestic abuse. Through financial contributions, fundraising events, and volunteer support, DPC has been a partner with these agencies for many years.

New year, new address?

Have you updated your directory info. for 2024?



DPC uses a password-protected online directory to help us stay in touch with our members and friends. We hope you will take a minute to upload a new picture for a new year and update your information.

Please email info@dpchurch.com with questions about accessing the church directory, creating an account, or updating your member profile.

Sparkhouse Lesson: The Holy Spirit is alive in all of us.



Jesus came to save the whole world!
Mark 1:21-28

Sunday School is available for grades K-8.

Jan. 14th
9:30AM



Coming Soon! Care Circle Cottage Dinners



In the coming weeks, care circle leaders will begin reaching out to group leaders to coordinate cottage dinners for February. These are one way he hope that you can get better acquainted with our new pastor. If you would like to be added to a DPC care circle, or small group, please email info@dpchurch.com.

We look forward to cozy gatherings that will bring a spark of joy to February in Nashville.

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
Paulino Jarquin, Building Manager

Dr. William Taylor, Dir. of Music
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**