

**Service of Installation for  
The Rev. Zachary Scott Sasser  
*and*  
The Ordination and Installation  
of Church Officers**



Image created by The Rev. Zach Sasser based on a photograph of unknown origin sourced online

**The Downtown Presbyterian Church  
Nashville, Tennessee  
January 28th, 2024**

# THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

January 28th, 2024 (Broadcast for FB Livestream)

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

RE indicates Ruling Elder; TE indicates Teaching Elder

WELCOME

Rev. Ray Thomas, Executive Presbyter

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Fanfare Henry Purcell

Martha Lynn Thompson, arr.

(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary.)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

RE Dixie Williamson

L: Come, let us worship the Lord;

P: **For the Lord is our God, and we are God's people.**

L: Draw near to God and God will draw near to you.

P: **Humble yourselves before the Lord and God will exalt you.**

\*HYMN #32: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Shannon White

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

**Almighty God, by water and Your Holy Spirit you baptized us to be your own and called the church into being. We confess that we hold back the love of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ.**

*(silent prayers of personal confession)*

**Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our lives by the power of your Holy Spirit and make strong our common witness to the one Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE: Hymn #471 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

(3x: Accompaniment, then Cantor, then Congregation)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: The saying is true and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Jesus Christ came into the world to forgive sinners.

P: **The Lord has heard our cry for mercy;  
the Lord accepts our prayers. Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE: HYMN #582 “Glory To God”**

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen. (Repeat)  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

Jeremiah 18:1-4

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

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

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

**SERMON**

Rev. Barry Chance

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER**

RE Jack Henderson

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “The Servant Song”**

David Schwoebel

If anyone would be first, they shall be the last of all,  
they shall be the last, they shall be the last; be the servant of all.

We are travelers on a journey, fellow travelers on the road;  
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you speak the peace you long to hear.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.  
Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.  
When we sing to God in heaven, we will find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Mark 9:35; Richard Gillard

**\*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 DEDICATION

## STATEMENT ON MINISTRY

Rev. Ray Thomas, Executive Presbyter

We are called by God to be the Church of Jesus Christ and to share in the joy and responsibility of proclaiming God's grace together as Ruling Elders, Teaching Elders, and members of the Body of Christ that is the church. Today we reclaim our historic calling and remember the great ends of the church: The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The ministry of the church is shared by pastor and people. Today we remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ, and we celebrate God's call to our siblings who serve among us as Teaching and Ruling Elders. While we acknowledge with reverence the special significance of Rev. Sasser's call to serve as the Pastor of the Downtown Presbyterian Church, we give thanks that it does not diminish, and even encourages, the call of God upon those Ruling Elders who will serve church family.

## LITANY OF GIFTS

Rev. Adrian White

**L:** As in one body we have many parts and each has its own function, so all of us together with Christ are one body, and we all belong to each other. We have different gifts according to the grace God has given.

If your gift is to hear God's word,

**P: speak it out in faith.**

**L:** If your gift is service,

**P: live to serve others.**

**L:** If your gift is the heart of a teacher,

**P: teach what is true.**

**L:** Let preachers preach with conviction, and givers give freely.

**P: Let officers work diligently for the people, and let those who serve the poor serve gladly.**

**L:** Let us not lack for enthusiasm but be ardent in spirit,

**P: serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, patient in suffering, constant in prayer, supporting one another, and welcoming all.**

## PRESENTATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

RE Erin Bell

RE Michael Arwood, RE Ruth Butler, RE David Coleman, TE Rev. Zach Sasser

## CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO CHURCH OFFICERS

RE Elinor Foster

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church, and will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

(For Ruling Elders) Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(For Rev. Sasser) Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

## CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

RE Debra Gentry

Do we, the members of the church, accept Ruth Butler, David Coleman, and Michael Arwood as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Do we, the members of the church, accept Zach Sasser, as our pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pay for him, to encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Do we promise to pay him fairly and provide for his welfare as he works among us; to stand by him in trouble and share his joys? Will we listen to the word he preaches, welcome his pastoral care, and honor his authority as he seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?

**We do, and with God's help we will.**

PRESENTATION OF THE STOLE Brinn Black

PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION Rev. Warner Durnell

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION RE Elinor Foster

WELCOME INTO THE PRESBYTERY Rev. Ray Thomas

CHARGE TO THE PASTOR Rev. Keith Gunter

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION RE Debra VanDerveer

\*HYMN #301: "Let Us Build A House"

(vs.1-2,5 all; vs. 3 women and children; vs. 4 men; Refrain sung by all.)

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Zach Sasser

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Highland Cathedral arr. Charles Callahan

(Please remain quietly seated during the Closing Voluntary.)

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

- Text "dpchurch" to 73256
- Visit [www.dpchurch.com](http://www.dpchurch.com) and click "online giving"

*The congregation of The Downtown Presbyterian Church gives thanks and praise to God for the ministers and preachers who have helped us through this transition in ministry, the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee for their time and faithfulness, and the members of the Installation Commission for their participation in today's service.*

**Ministers and Preachers we thank God for include:**

Rev. Claire Berry, Rev. John Booth, Rev. Laura Cheifetz, Dr. David Dark, Rev. Warner Durnell, Rev. James Hudnut-Beumler, Rev. Lucas Mburu, Josefine Parker, Rev. Stacy Rector, Rev. Walt Tennyson, Rev. Ray Thomas, Rev. Adrian White, and Rev. Shannon White

**The Installation Commission includes:**

RE Elinor Foster (Moderator of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and Chair of the Commission)  
Rev. Barry Chance (General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Eastminster Presbytery)  
Rev. Ray Thomas (Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee)  
The Reverends Warner Durnell, Keith Gunter, and Adrian White  
Ruling Elders Debra Gentry, Jack Henderson, Debra VanDerveer, and Dixie Williamson

**Members of The Pastor Nominating Committee:**

Debra Gentry (Chair), Matthew Abfalter, Jack Henderson, Jim Hoobler, Stephanie Coleman, Dixie Williamson

**DPC gives thanks and praise to God for:**

Today's musical offerings are provided by Dr. William Taylor (organist and Director of Music at DPC), the DPC Handbell Choir, members of the Adult Choir, and instrumentalists. Music is used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736957. All rights reserved. The special licensing for today's anthem, *The Servant Song*, was donated in celebration of The Reverend Zachary Scott Sasser's installation.

Biblical reflection is offered by The Rev. Barry Chance. He previously served as pastor of congregations in Shreveport and Hammond, Louisiana, and as the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Rev. Sasser's stole is presented by Brinn Black, a member of Cross Point Church and a long-time friend of the Sasser family. She was a member of Chester Presbyterian Church in Virginia, Rev. Sasser's first ordained position. The red stole symbolizes the work of the Holy Spirit and is used for Pentecost, ordinations and installations.

*The Sasser family gives thanks and praise to God for the warm embrace of The Downtown Presbyterian Church. We feel assured of God's calling and thankful to call Nashville our home and DPC our family of faith.*

# **THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

154 Rep. John Lewis Way North, Nashville, TN 37219  
(615) 254-7584; FAX (615) 254-4741

## **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**

Rev. Zach Sasser, Moderator

### **Class of 2023**

Tom Wills  
Samera Zavaro

### **Class of 2024**

Betty McConnell  
Denny Harris

### **Class of 2025**

John Booth  
Tara Herbert

### **Class of 2026**

Michael Arwood  
Ruth Butler  
Dave Coleman

Erin Bell, Clerk of Session

Rachel Hayes, Church Treasurer

## **THE CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Zach Sasser - Pastor

Dr. William Taylor - Director of Music, Church Organist/Pianist

Paulino Jarquin - Building Manager

Allison Shearouse - Virtual Ministry Assistant

Rainwater Morehead - A/V Tech

## **PARKING FOR DPC ATTENDEES**

Complimentary Parking for Sunday worship is provided in the SP+ garage at **147 4th Ave. N.** The entrance is on 4th Avenue. If you parked in the SP+ garage today, please ask a greeter for a voucher sticker to validate your parking.

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

***Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!***