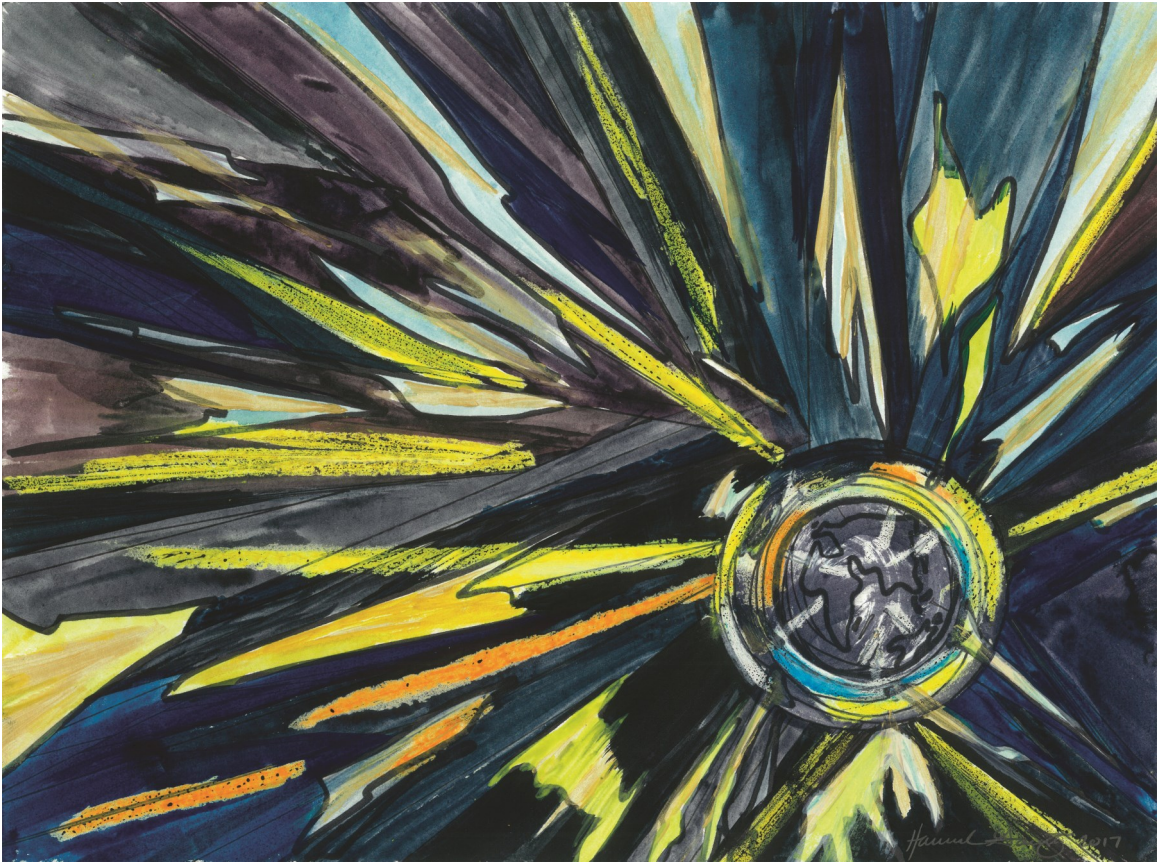


THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Lent

February 18th, 2024 (Broadcast for FB Livestream)



TIME

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Mark 1:9-15

Gathering in God's Name

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

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY: "Prayer, Op.118, No.4" W. D. Armstrong
(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: With honesty and courage,
God calls us to take account of evil and injustice.

P: **To consider it in community.**

L: To reflect in silence.

P: **To pay attention in public.**

L: The love of God makes known our transgressions.

P: **Not for shame nor for guilt, but for deliverance and freedom.**

L: Mercy comes to take our hand.

P: **The way of salvation is set before us.**

L: Thanks be to God, our redeemer and friend.

***HYMN #165: "The Glory of These Forty Days"**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***CONFESSION**

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. (silent prayer)

O Lord forgive us and strengthen us, that we may have the power to live as you have called us to live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters, we are brought from death into new life in Christ.

P: **Thanks be to God for this good news!**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

***HYMN #577: “Kyrie Eleison (Lord Have Mercy) ”**

Encountering the Living Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON:

Psalm 25:1-10

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. P: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON:

Mark 1:9-15

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

ARTIST’S STATEMENT

SERMON: “The Time has Come”

Rev. Zach Sasser

Responding to God’s Word & Call

***HYMN #783: “When We Are Tested”**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

God sent his Son to proclaim release to those who are bound, to announce that God’s promised kingdom is at hand, to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news.

We testify that God is at work here and now when we obey Christ’s commission to witness to him and make disciples of all nations, when we spread the good news by our words and when we embody it in our lives.

(from A Declaration of Faith)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Transforming Spirit, unravel the frameworks within us that limit liberation. Move us beyond our comfort and routine, that we might co-create worlds of freedom. We long to move our bodies with delight. We long to be in communion with the earth. We long to organize our way out of systems of harm. Move obstacles within and without that we might live out our longings. Attune our hearts to beat with your rhythm, even as we pray for people whom you love and situations in which you are active. Here us as we pray for...

(The prayers of the congregation are given voice.)

With Christ we pray the words shared with us long ago...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

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

“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right-doing, there is a field. I’ll meet you there.” Sufi poet, Rumi, invites us to meet in a place of flung-wide possibilities. We gather our offerings today, co-creating a world of potential beyond legality, beyond “the way things have been.” Come, let us meet one another in the field beyond the field. Let us collect our resources to share with one another.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Into the Woods My Master Went” Alec Rowley

Into the woods my Master went, clean forspent,
Into the woods my Master came, forspent with love and shame.

But the olives they were not blind to Him,
and the little grey leaves were kind to Him,
The thorn tree had a mind to Him, when into the woods He came.

Out of the woods my Master came and he was well content.
Out of the woods my Master came, content with death and shame.

When death and shame would woo Him last,
from under the trees they drew Him last,
'Twas on a tree they slew Him last when out of the woods He came
Sidney Lanier

***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)**

Great God, you called a people and in Christ named us to serve you. We present ourselves in response to your mercy. Magnify your name through our thoughts and actions, so that we may reflect your goodness in all we do. Let the seal of our baptism be your stamp of approval, so that engrafted into Christ’s body we can respond to His will. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

***HYMN #687: “Our God, Our Help In Ages Past ”**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

L: The time is now, and the Kin-dom of God has come near.

P: We will look. We will listen. We will make use of the time that has been given to us!

L: The way of salvation is set before us.

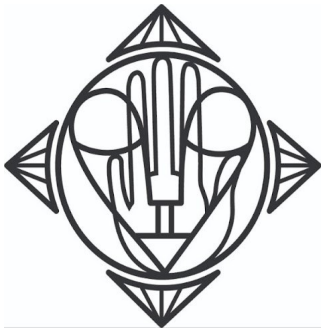
P: Thanks be to God, our redeemer and friend.

L: Go in peace to live and love and serve the Lord with gladness!

As an act of devotion, during the Season of Lent, we will conclude worship in silence. You are welcome to remain and meditate on the scriptures, images, and prayers of the day.

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

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



embodied
MIND • BODY • HEART • SOUL

During the season of Lent, we will be using resources from *A Sanctified Art* listed on the following page. These opportunities encourage us to embrace a faith that engages all of who we are: mind, body, heart, and soul. They invite us to be present in our bodies and in the present moment. These opportunities remind us how Jesus integrated his humanity and divinity to fulfill his radical ministry, and they invite us to consider how we might bring all of who we are to God while we live out the love that chooses to be embodied in us.

Opportunities for Faith Formation During Lent (2/25–3/24)

Embodied Devotionals – During this season, we will have weekly and daily devotionals available. The weekly devotional is a mandala-style coloring book featuring line art versions of our weekly bulletin cover art. These illustrations were created as an aid to reflect on the scripture reading used in worship, and an artist's statement is included with them. The daily devotional includes small sections of a larger image that you may color as a meditative practice each day.

Visio Divina – On Sunday mornings at 9:30 we will gather in the Brew Room for a time of spiritual reflection that combines the practice of Lectio Divina (a meditative process of reading scripture) with visual images. We might even make some art together!

Spirituality Centers – In lieu of our traditional "Stations of the Cross", the Faith Formation Committee is reframing the stations as Spirituality Centers. As in the past, each station will offer a different way to engage in prayer and meditate on God's love. These stations will use the weekly scriptures offered through the coloring book and artist's statements as inspiration. We hope that you will take time throughout the season of Lent to participate in the stations.

If you have an interest in creating a station inspired by the coloring book and artist's statements, please see Rev. Zach for more information. You can also speak with Faith Formation co-chairs, Tara Herbert and David Maddox.

Paper Lace Banner – This would be a great project for a small group of friends during Lent! We have a specific design that we are hoping to use. If you are interested, let Pastor Zach know! We will designate some space for you during the Sunday School time. Please know that it will take several weeks, and we will put it on display in the sanctuary for Easter and a few weeks after.

Children and Youth – While some tweens and teens may enjoy joining the adults for Visio Divina, we will also have some interactive opportunities for younger children to explore how important it is that God joined us through the body of Jesus during Sunday School! There will also be a special table in the sanctuary for younger disciples to gather and color during worship. Parents will need to be close at hand, and no one will stop them from coloring during worship, either!

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 2024

Betty McConnell
Denny Harris

Class of 2025

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
Paulino Jarquin, Building Manager
Allison Shearouse, Virtual Ministry Assistant
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**