

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10th, 2024 (Broadcast for FB Livestream)



ETERNITY

by Hannah Garrity – inspired by John 3:14-21

Gathering in God's Name

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

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY: "Ayre"

John Ward

(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: O, give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

P: God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,

P: For God has gathered us together to proclaim God's grace and mercy to all!

***HYMN #624: "Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"**

***CONFESSION (UNISON)**

Lord, we acknowledge that the darkness is more comfortable than the light. When we tune out the hurts and cries of others, life is easier for us. When we turn away from complex problems such as hunger, poverty, homelessness, crime, environmental damage and family disintegration, We are less tense and troubled.. We confess that we need your troubling Spirit upon us once again, pushing us into faithfulness and growth, through Christ our Lord.

(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: Indeed, God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world,

P: but in order that the world might be saved through him.

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God.

***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 107:1-3, 17-22

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

SECOND LESSON:

John 3:14-21

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

ARTIST’S STATEMENT

SERMON

Rev. Zach Sasser

Responding to God’s Word & Call

***HYMN #749: “Come! Live In The Light!”**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

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, 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.

(Written by author and theologian, Ting Jin Yong)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God, your word reminds us how fearfully and wonderfully we are made to reflect your image. Your word invites us to delight in the light of your presence. Help us to see through the lie of scarcity that makes us disregard your image in others. Reconnect us with each other and with your good creation through your grace. Attune our hearts to beat with your rhythm, O God, even as we pray for people whom you love and situations in which you are active. Hear us as we pray...

(The prayers of the congregation are given voice.)

at the instruction of Jesus, who is the 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

You are an amazing human. Through the grace and mercy of God, you are an amazing expression of God's love! As a response to God's grace and mercy, I invite you to bring forth what you have to share today, so that resources may flow where they belong. Bring forth efforts, skills, and presence. Bring forth money, dreams, and material goods.

The Kin-dom of heaven is among us, let us bring it forth, placing our collected resources on the table of Hope.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “God So Loved the World”

John Stainer

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that who so believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son in to the world to condemn this world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.
and with Him is plenteous redemption;
And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

*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)

Holy God, we dedicate our offering in the hope that all beings everywhere may have enough. May each child be loved as if they were our own. May every animal have her ecosystem. May every evil lie that separates us crumble to dust. We bless our offerings to the Kind-dom of Heaven on earth and to our dreams of thriving and ripening on the vine. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

*HYMN #313: “Lord, Make Us More Holy”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: May the words of our mouths proclaim God’s love.

P: May the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.

L: May our hands work for justice.

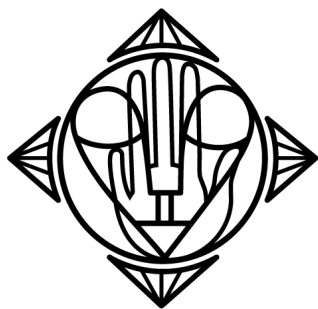
P: May we be held by the grace and mercy of God in all that we say and do. Amen.

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.

Our liturgy is from Enfleshed.com, the “PC(USA) Book of Common Worship” and “Feasting On The Word”. All music used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736957. All rights reserved.

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embodied
MIND • BODY • HEART • SOUL

During the season of Lent, we will be using the 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 (3/10—3/31)

Embodied Devotionals – During this season, we have weekly and daily devotionals available. The weekly devotional is a coloring book featuring line art versions of our bulletin cover art and the artist's statement. The daily devotional includes small sections of a larger image that you may color as a meditative practice each day.

Spirituality Centers – We “give up” our postlude during Lent to make space for contemplation. Various interaction prayer centers may be found around the sanctuary and in the Narthex. Each station should accommodate two people, and you are not expected to do them all in one day. Instructions are provided at each station and a flier with information about all of them is in the Narthex.

Children and Youth – During the 9:30 a.m. Sunday school class, younger children are offered interactive opportunities to explore how important it is that God joined us through the body of Jesus!

Additionally, a special table has been provided in the sanctuary for all of God's children (younger or older) to gather and color during worship. We invite parents to sit near the table in the event your child needs you, but please know that all are welcome here!

A small group of older youth are working on a lace banner project during Sunday School. The hope is to have it completed in time for Easter!

Maundy Thursday (March 28th) – Our tradition of partnering with McKendree United Methodist Church continues, and this year we will host the service. Please make plans to join us for this special exploration of the Mandatum (Commandment) of Christ to love as we have been loved on March 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Cottage Dinners (March 29th) – In the spirit of the early church, our care circles will meet in homes to break bread and contemplate the severity of the cross on Good Friday. If you have not heard from someone in your care circle, please email info@dpchurch.com. There will also be a group that meets at DPC on March 29th at 6:30pm.

Easter Morning (March 31st)— Join us at 9:30 on Easter morning for a congregational breakfast in the fellowship hall. An Easter egg hunt for the children will begin at 9:30 as well. The Easter Worship service will begin at 11:00 a.m. We look forward to celebrating the joy of the resurrection with you!

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

Jim Hoobler

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**