

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17th, 2024 (Broadcast for FB Livestream)



"The Fruits of Death"

By Lisle Gwynn Garrity – inspired by John 12:20-33

Gathering in God's Name

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

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY: "Wayfaring Stranger"

(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 #1: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"**

***CONFESSION (UNISON)**

Our loving Creator, the whole earth is filled with your glory.

But we confess that we have fallen short of your desires for our lives.

We have been timid when we should be bold.

We have been silent when we should speak.

We have sought our own gratification at the expense of our neighbors.

In your mercy, take away our sin and redirect our lives.

(silent prayer)

**Grant us zeal to care for the needs of others,
by sending us into ministries of grace and power.**

**We pray these things as those who follow
the way of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Beloved of God, believe what the Bible tells us:

P: The Lord will restore, support, strengthen, and establish us.

L: Beloved of God, we are forgiven!

P: To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen!

***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 51:1-12

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

SECOND LESSON:

John 12:20-33

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

ARTIST’S STATEMENT

SERMON: “Well, Glory Be...”

Rev. Zach Sasser

Responding to God’s Word & Call

***HYMN #610: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(from A Brief Statement of Faith)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. During the final days of his earthly life, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears, and in faithful obedience, he opened the way to eternal salvation. Let us open our hearts this day as we lift up our deepest needs and concerns to the One who is mighty to save. Attune our hearts to beat with your rhythm, even as we pray for people whom you love and situations in which you are active. Hear us as we pray for...

(The prayers of the congregation are given voice.)

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

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

The author and activist Adrienne Maree Brown asks, "Are you actively practicing generosity and vulnerability in order to make the connections between you and others clear, open, available, durable?" Generosity, in this statement, means giving what you have without strings or expectations attached. Vulnerability means showing your needs. Let us gather our offerings today with a spirit of generosity and vulnerability.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "What Wondrous Love is This"

*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)

Generous and Tender God, bless our gathered resources towards durable connections with each other. Loosen the strings of expectation that vulnerability may flow between us. Fortify us for the practice and patience required to build new worlds. Surprise us with delight along the way. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

***HYMN #634: “To God Be The Glory”**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

L: Go with the blessing of God the Creator

P: who fills our hearts to overflowing!

L: Go with the blessing of God the Redeemer,

P: who commands us to love as we have been loved!

L: Go with the blessing of God the Sustainer,

P: who guides the stream of living water to satisfy those in need!

L: So it is, so it was, so it ever shall be,

P: and all to the glory of God. 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.

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

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

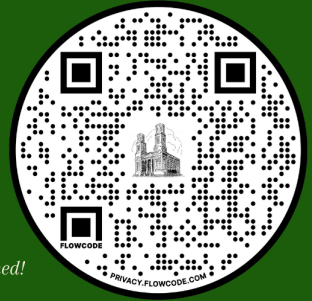
Our liturgy is from Enfleshed.com, the “PC(USA) Book of Common Worship” and “Feasting On The Word”. All music used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-736957. All rights reserved.

Many thanks to our DPC musicians providing our music for today – Tom Ashley, Brandon Bell, Deb Gil, Emily Williamson, and George Williamson. Please give them your regards following the service.



March at DPC

Scan here to view DPC's online calendar & learn more about what we've got planned!



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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

3 Ways to Give



Through your congregation



Text OGHS to 91999 to give



pcusa.org/give-oghs

3 PC(USA) Ministries

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Self-Development of People

Your contributions make a difference in the world!

Next Sunday, Palm/Passion Sunday, a special offering will be taken to support three outreach efforts of The Presbyterian Church (USA). These organizations provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We hope that you will prayerfully consider contributing to this annual offering.

Opportunities for Faith Formation During Lent (3/17—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**