

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3rd, 2024 (Broadcast for FB Livestream)



RAISE UP

by Sarah Are – inspired by John 2:13-22

Gathering in God's Name

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

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY: “Chant de Matin” Léon Boëllmann
(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Our savior made a whip of chords and purified the temple.

P: Our savior felt anger, yet he acted out of love;
love for God and for God's people.

L: God's anointed One offered his body as proof;

P: Proof that nothing can restrain God's love.

L: Let us worship God with wreckless, radical hope!

P: For we are God's people, and God is ever faithful.

***HYMN #5: “God the Sculptor of the Mountains”**

***CONFESSION (UNISON)**

Gracious God, you gift us with one another, yet we live in a culture of conflict and power. Our leaders boast and bully, and our children follow their example. Help us to be better examples for them. Forgive us for allowing your church to be a symbol of power rather than a people of faith. Forgive us for allowing your church to be an instrument of oppression rather than an expression of your compassion. Forgive our silent complacency in the name of correct theology. Purify our hearts just as you purified the temple so long ago.

(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**

Beloved of God, there is nothing that you have done, and nothing that has been done to you, that can separate you from the reality of God's love! Know that you are forgiven and set free from the sin that separates us from within and without, by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ.

***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 19

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

SECOND LESSON:

John 2:13-22

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 #533: “In The Singing”**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)

Jesus Christ, as He is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and death. We reject the false doctrine, as though the Church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God’s revelation. (The Theological Declaration of Barmen)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, whose power is made perfect in weakness; whose wisdom appears as foolishness in this world, we thank you for the scandal of the cross.

In Jesus Christ, you overturn all our usual ways of behaving and believing. You scatter our false notions of discipleship as easily as coins are spilled from a box. You correct our notions of piety and order with fierce passion. Do not let your church become content or contained as an institution. Raze to ruin what is distorted in us, and raise us to new life as a community so that we may be the body of Christ in and for the world.

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. Here 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

The house of God is not a marketplace for buying and selling. It is a house of prayer, a place of healing and restoration, and a place where we bring before God our provisions to be used for present needs. As we give of our resources to support this ministry we share, let us make commitments of our hearts. More than putting money in a basket, let us fund, support, and make space for our participation in the tender mercy of God that we have received and have been invited to share.

Let us return to God a portion of what we've been given in our time of offering, and let us make commitments of heart, mind, and soul that we may express in our loves and lives in God's good creation.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Out of the Depths" Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.
Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.
If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand?
But with Thee is forgiveness, that Thou mayest be feared.

My soul waits for the Lord, and in His word I hope;
My soul waits for the Lord, my God, more than the watchmen for the morning.
Hope in the Lord, O Israel.
For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plenteous redemption;
And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Psalm 130

***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: “Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake” John Hilton

Lord, for Thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
But forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in an upright heart
Before Thee this day and evermore.

Henry Bull’s “Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations”, 1568

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

***HYMN #316: “Where Charity and Love Prevail”**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

P: **May the cross we bear be a sign of hope.**

L: May the blessing of God be upon our hearts and hands.

P: **May God be praised in all we say and do. Amen.**

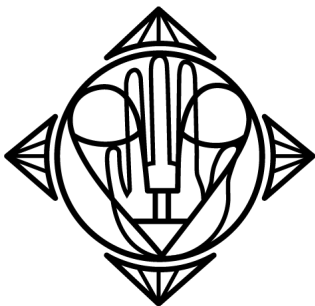
As an act of devotion, during the Season of Lent, we will conclude worship in silence. You are welcome to remain and meditate on the scriptures, images, and prayers of the day.

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

Welcome Guest Liturgist! We are delighted to have Rev. Adrian White (they/them) as guest liturgist today. Rev White assisted with the creation of our Spirituality Centers and led a Visio Divina class prior to worship. Rev. White is the former interim pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church and a close friend of DPC.



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 (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

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**