

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 13, 2024 (Broadcast for FB Livestream)

Gathering in God's Name

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Farther Along

(Please meditate quietly during the Opening Voluntary)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (UNISON)

New every morning is your love, Great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us a desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN #475: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Verses 1 & 2)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in God's grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer, and then, together, trusting we are surrounded by the grace of one another that comes from God, thanks be.

(Silence)

*CONFESSION

We confess our complicity in systems that seek to dominate anyone. For the ways we judge certain bodies, holding them to impossible standards of artificial and conditional constructs of beauty, forgive us. For the times we've witnessed the degradation of others and have said nothing, forgive us. For the ways we demean ourselves, forgive us.

Help us, O God, to be a people who stand with those whom the dominant culture maligns. Help us, O God, to expand our imaginations and grow our grace. Help us, O God, to create healing and safe spaces for all so that they may know dignity, worth, and repair.

Merciful God, Your mercy begs us to do better, and our confessions are a place to start. Help us, now, to rest in Your grace so that we may be renewed for the ongoing work of reparation and love. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: our help is in the name of the God who loves love, the God who *is* love. We are set free the harmful patterns of the past for a future God creates with us here and now. We are whole people who are called to make this world whole, with the help of God. We are loved. We are held. We are forgiven.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

***COMMUNAL/CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

We will speak the response together, adapted from Hymn #582, *Glory to God*.

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
Glory to Christ, whose grace pardons us.
Glory to Spirit, whose love sets us free.
As it was in the beginning, as it is now,
and as it will forever be, world without end.
Amen.

Encountering the Living Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 7:36-50

A living, breathing word.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *Eve: The “Sinful” Woman*

Claire K. McKeever-Burgett

Responding to God’s Word and Call

HYMN #775: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other.

(from the Confession of 1967)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

For people everywhere who are living amid war, famine, genocide, and unspeakable violence, we pray.

For people everywhere who are giving birth to new ideas and new ways of being in the world, we give thanks.

For people everywhere who are longing to be heard, we pray.

For people everywhere who are leading in loving ways, we give thanks.

For people everywhere who are barely hanging on, we pray.

For people everywhere who are speaking words of wisdom, we give thanks.

For people everywhere who are sick in mind, body, or spirit, we pray.

Loving, Merciful God, attune our hearts to beat with your rhythm 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...

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

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP: FOCUSING ON FAITH FORMATION

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Let us continuously pray for one another - for safety, wellness, restoration, and justice. Let us pray, not only through our words, but through our actions, rooting our desire for each other's flourishing in how we live and what we give. As we gather our tithes and offerings this day, whether online through the giving tab at dpchurch.com or in the baskets we pass, let our gifts be living prayers for one another's thriving.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *In a Land Where We Never Grow Old*

*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 Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Accept all that is offered in this place today, O God. Accept our material commitments to build a more peaceable family on this earth and in our own communities. Accept our personal commitments to become a people who break cycles of hatred and retaliation, in both large-scale and ordinary ways. Use these gift, and use us with all our limitations, for the rebuilding of a world of hope and healing in your name. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

*HYMN #475: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Verse 3)*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Prayer of Mary
Inspired by Luke 1:46-55

O God, we glorify You.
From the depths of our beings, we rejoice in You, Our Deliverer.
As you show mercy to us, help us show mercy to others.
As you honor our bodies, help us honor all other bodies.
As you scatter the deceitful and remove tyrants from their thrones,
help us work for justice and shalom.
Fill the hungry with good things.
Show us what is enough.
Deliver us from pride into mercy.
Deliver us from evil into love.
For yours is the power and the vulnerability,
the glory and the love,
eternally here, eternally now.
Amen.

Go forth from this place, beloved children of God, knowing you are loved and therefore are called to love—everybody. Amen.



PRAY GROUND – A special table has been provided in the front of the sanctuary for all of God’s children to gather or color during worship. We invite parents of younger children to sit near the table in the event your child needs you. The sounds of infants and toddlers are welcome in this space as well!

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

- Text “dpchurch” to 73256
- Visit www.dpchurch.com and click “Giving to DPC”

WORSHIP TODAY — We thank George & Emily Williamson and Brandon Bell for serving as our musicians today. Please give them your regards following the service.

Our liturgy comes from various resources including: *Blessed Are the Women: Naming and Reclaiming Women’s Stories from the Gospels* by Claire K. McKeever-Burgett, Beth Merrill Neel at her blog, “Hold Fast to What is Good,” the PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship*, *The Upper Room Worshipbook*, and other sources in the public domain.

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PUMPKIN CARVING & CONTEST — The Faith Formation committee has a special opportunity planned for Sunday, October 27th at 9:45! Tom Byl (*DPC's pumpkin expert*) will be leading a pumpkin-decorating project in the fellowship hall during the Sunday School hour. He will have 12-15 pumpkins prepped and ready for carving or painting. In addition to the pumpkins, all the decorating supplies will be provided.



You are welcome to bring your own pumpkins to decorate, but don't let this keep you from joining in the fun! Parents are encouraged to assist their children in decorating. Costumes are welcome, but not required. If you are carving, please dress accordingly as it can be a bit messy.

Those interested in additional pumpkin fun can join the annual pumpkin contest! Already carved your pumpkin? Take your chances and enter it in the annual pumpkin contest. Our judges are primed to give out a plethora of pumpkin prizes!

We look forward to seeing your pumpkin creations on October 27th!

Please note: Unfortunately, the cauldron cookoff has been canceled this year. We will not have our traditional potluck on the 27th. Your community engagement committee is planning an alternate activity for early 2025.



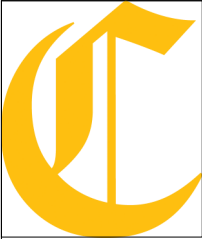
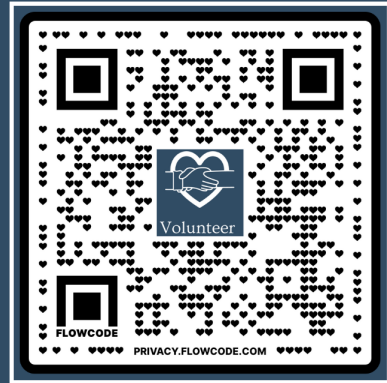
SAVE THE DATE! - Our beloved Pastor has sold his home in Louisiana and will close on a new home this week! On October 26th, we will gather in the home of Betty Harkness from 5-8 p.m. to celebrate this wonderful new chapter in the life of the Sasser family. An email will be sent this week with more information and a space to RSVP.

CALLING ALL
VOLUNTEERS!

Serve Meals with us!

Saturdays 8:30-10:30

Scan here to sign up!



OCTOBER MISSIONS PARTNER : THE CONTRIBUTOR —This month, we are delighted to spotlight The Contributor. Housed at DPC, The Contributor is an award-winning newspaper sold with dignity by our homeless neighbors. The street paper’s content focuses on issues of poverty and homelessness. It is written by local journalists, as well as people experiencing homelessness or those working within the homeless community. Visit thecontributor.org to learn how you can be part of the solution.

PARKING LOT CONSTRUCTION—The church's parking lot will be closed tomorrow for repaving. It is scheduled to reopen Tuesday. No further construction is planned at this time. Thank you for your patience with the parking lot closures. We are exceedingly grateful to Denny Harris and Paulino Jarquin for overseeing this project.



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

Debra Gentry, Church Treasurer

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Zach Sasser, Pastor

Dr. William Taylor, Director of Music & Organist

Paulino Jarquin, Building Manager

Claire K. McKeever-Burgett, Director of Faith Formation

Sarah Hoehn, Administrative Assistant

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**