

First Christian Church of Decatur
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Resolve to Love • Agree to Differ • Unite to Serve • Break Bread Together



August 22, 2021 at 10:25AM

Season of Pentecost

THEME: "CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE"

Welcome Statement

*First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ) is an
open and affirming congregation.*

We welcome everyone into full participation in the life and membership of the church.

*Inspired and informed by God's love, mercy, and justice, we are purposefully
involved in healing and helping our community and our world.*

*We covenant with God and the greater community to nurture a spirit of
love and service to neighbors, honor one another's differences,
and fellowship in the breaking of bread.*

*Actively striving to honor each other's race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity,
nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, family configuration,
political affiliation, economic circumstance, or theological perspective,
we truly do welcome all.*

We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

10.25AM – Prelude *“To a Water Lily” by Edward MacDowell* Kathy Westbrook

10.30AM – Welcome and Announcements Rev. Dr James Brewer-Calvert

Opening Hymn *“We, Your People, God, Confessing”* 356

*We, your people, God, confessing Jesus Christ your Son as Lord,
gather here in common worship praising your Incarnate Word.
Through the power of Christ within us we are strengthened to proclaim
gospel truth in witness, service offered in Christ’s holy name.*

*We, your people, God, rejoicing in your vast creative power,
bind ourselves each with the other, covenant in love this hour.
Through baptismal right we enter, rising newly born to be
unified with your whole people here in perfect liberty.*

*We, your people, God, communing through the Holy Spirit here,
joined together as disciples, in obedience now draw near.
At the table where the emblems of Christ’s sacrifice are spread,
here we celebrate his presence with the cup and broken bread.*

*We, your people, God, receiving gifts of ministry outpoured
in the light of holy scripture are set free, refreshed, restored.
In the bonds of faith we serve you, God of all, whom we adore.
Yours the blessing, yours the glory, one God reigning evermore!*

Call to worship (*Psalm 70: 1, 4-5, adapted*) Pat Oliffe

One: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!

Many: Let all who seek God rejoice and be glad in the Lord.

One: Let those who love your salvation say evermore,

Many: “God is great!”

One: I am poor in spirit and needy in life; hasten to me, O God!

Unison: God, you are our help and our deliverer; O Lord, do not delay! Amen!

Loving God, deliver us. Help us to be steadfast. Guide us to be patient. May we not be too quickly alarmed. Let no one deceive us in any way. Direct us now in this experience of worship, and in our daily lives, empower us to hold fast to the Faith and this, your community of faith. In the blessed name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Song of Praise

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

47

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

We Receive and Respond to the Word

Lessons from Holy Scripture

Pat Oliffe

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

¹⁴ “Now therefore revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having

done you good.”²¹ And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!”²² Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”²³ He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”²⁴ The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.”²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.²⁶ Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of the LORD.²⁷ Joshua said to all the people, “See, this stone shall be a witness against us; for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you, if you deal falsely with your God.”²⁸ So Joshua sent the people away to their inheritances.

This is the word of the Lord

Many: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Dr James Brewer-Calvert

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem

Music Selection

Sermon

“We are Witnesses”

Rev. Dr James Brewer-Calvert

We Remember and Celebrate as the Body of Christ

Hymn

“Fill My Cup, Lord”

351

*Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy
And then I heard my Savior speaking
“Draw from my well that never shall run dry”*

Refrain

*Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord!
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of Heaven, feed me ‘til I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole*

*There are millions in this world who are craving
The pleasures, earthly things of gold
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord. (Refrain)*

*So, my friend, if the things this world gave you
Leave hungers that won't pass away,
My blessed Lord will come and save you,
If you kneel to him and humbly pray: (Refrain)*

Invitation to Faithful Stewardship and the Lord's Table

Rev. Caley Hargrove

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Pat Oliffe

(Christ invites you to partake of Holy Communion. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us. When the Words of Institution are proclaimed, you are invited to partake of the Bread and the Cup.)

Words of Institution

I Corinthians 11:23-26

One: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said,

Many: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

Many: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Unison Prayer of Commission

Rev. Caley Hargrove

God our help: We thank you for this supper, shared in the spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us.

We Are Led Out by the Spirit

Hymn

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

344

*I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.*

*Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.*

*Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.*

Benediction

Rev. Dr James Brewer-Calvert

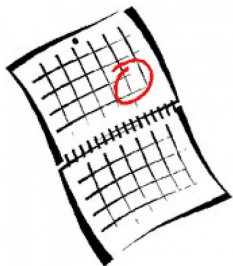
One: Together, united by the grace of God, we lift our voices to proclaim:

Many: **"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!" Amen!**

Postlude

"Sarabande" by Corelli

Kathy Westbrook



Mark your Calendar

August 21 — Chalice Thrift Open 10 AM to 2 PM

August 25 — Red Cross Blood Drive

September 11 — Interfaith Service 10 AM Ebster Pavillion

September 12 — LGBTQ Volunteer Training, 5PM

Save the date! — Saturday September 25, West Ponce Music Stroll