





Picture by DPC Artist in Residence Richard Feaster

# THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH December 12, 2021

Hearing assistance devices are available. Please ask a greeter for a receiver. (\*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

## Gathering in God's Name

#### **OPENING VOLUNTARY**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Polish Carol, arranged by Bob Burroughs DPC Handbell CHoir

(Please meditate silently during the Opening Voluntary.)

#### Welcome

#### \*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Hodie Christus Natus Est

words and music by Michael Bedford

Hodie Christus natus est. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia. Today is Christ born. Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

The angels sang to the shepherds three, as they knelt on bended knee, "Christ is born this holy morn! Hurry to Bethlehem and see!" The shepherds left the hillside bare, traveled over the meadows fair, Till in awe the Child they say, lying in a manger there.

May we, like those shepherds poor, come, the Christ Child to adore. May we here, every year, worship within the church's door. Then may we, with joyful call, carry the news outside this hall. Thus we'll share, everywhere, God's great gift to one and all.

#### Advent Candle Lighting

#### Faye Scruggs & Taniya Fisher

- A: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.
- B: Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"
- A: Joy is the stretches and giggles of an infant child.
- B: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.
- A: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.
- B: Joy is the energy of a new season.
- A: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.
- B: So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.
- A: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.
- B: Family of faith, we are close to home.

\*OPENING HYMN #140 "Once in Royal David's City" vs. 1 & 2 choir, vs. 3 & 4 all

# CALL TO CONFESSION

- L: It takes courage to tell the truth. Our job as people of faith—to create a home for all—has never been easy. In our prayer of confession, may we channel the courage to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. We do not do this to shame ourselves or guilt ourselves for being imperfect. We speak the truth out loud because we know that we cannot grow and change without first being honest. So let us be brave. Let us be bold. Let us be truth-tellers as we confess together now to a God who couldn't love us any more than God already does. Let us pray. . .
- P: Expansive God, We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray, amen.

#### \*Assurance of Pardon

- L: Family of faith, this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news:
- P: We are at home with God-forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

- L: In the spirit of peace and home, let us greet one another. May the peace of Christ be with you.
- P: And also with you.

Please greet one another with words of peace and reconciliation. Please return to your seats when the music starts.

#### Invitations & Announcements

# Encountering the Living Word of God

#### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside, if you are my home, then your word is the street light guiding me there. So I want you to know— I am walking your way, we are walking your way, and we are looking for a light. And our feet are dirty— we've lost our way a time or two. And our bags are heavy— we're carrying an array of grief and fear on our backs. But we're on our way home. When you see us coming, when you feel our hearts move, we hope you'll run down the driveway and catch us. Leave the light on. We're looking for your light. We're listening for your word. We're open to the joy of your song. Gratefully we pray, amen.

#### A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

#### First Lesson - Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1:1-5

The Word was God

Byl Family Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made that have been made. Nothing was made He has not made.

John 1:1-3

#### Second Lesson - Genesis 15:1-6

**Jack Henderson** 

Hymn 84 Creator of the Stars of Night vs.1 & 4 all, vs.2 women & children, vs.3 men Third Lesson - Isaiah 11:1-9

Dream On, Dream On

Rachel Hayes Sunkyung Lee

Dream on, dream on, children of peace, till on earth God's kingdom come. Wolf and lamb will fee together; lions like oxen will eat straw. Dust shall be the serpent's food; no one shall destroy or hurt. Children of earth in all colors, live in peace and harmony.

Hope on, hope on, Easter people beyond the cross, a dawning sun. Christ, our peace, broke down all barriers, nation, culture, tribe, and clan. Reconciling us to God, Christ made us one human race, joined in peace and liberation, led by justice, nope, and love.

Mount up, mount up, like an eagle, to the heights, beyond the clouds. Strife and sorrow shall not stop you; pain and tears shall lose their power. Even though the young may stumble, God the Lord renews their strength. They shall run and not grow weary; they shall walk and shall not faint. Hae Jong Kim

Fourth Lesson - Luke 1:26-33 Hymn 129 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Fifth Lesson - Luke 2:1-7 Sing Hosannas **Chuck Cardona** Roy T. Scoggins, Jr., arr.

Kim McMullin

DPC Handbell Choir

#### Sixth Lesson - John 1:9-12,14,16-18 and Luke 2:8-16 John Booth Hymn 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

#### Seventh Lesson - Matthew 2:1-15a

Lully, Lulla, Lullay

Alison Letcher Philip Stopford

Lully, lulla, lully, lulla, by, by, lully, lullay. Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day? This poor youngling for whom we sing by, by, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day. His men of might in his own sight all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever morn and day. For Thy parting neither say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay. Words from a traditional 15<sup>th</sup> century carol

#### Eighth Lesson - Matthew 22:34-40

Jim Hoobler

Hymn 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

# Responding to God's Word & Call

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (people read bold)

God of open doors and porch lights, of welcome mats and candles in the window— we cannot thank you enough for your open door policy. You are forever welcoming us home. In a world that puts hand rails on park benches so that those without a roof over their heads cannot lay down, you offer something radically different. You welcome all of us, just as we are. You paint a picture of a world that could be. You remind us that there is enough love to go around, and that neighbor helping neighbor is who we are called to be. Thank you for the voice in the wilderness that calls to us. Thank you for the radical welcome and the unchanging love. Today, God, we give extra gratitude for the people and places that are home to us, but we also pray for all those without a home. We pray for immigrants and refugees navigating the waters of trauma, change, and loss. We pray for those who experience homelessness and for those scraping together every coin to pay last month's rent. We pray for those who do not feel at home in their body— assigned a gender or an identity that does not fit their spirit. We pray for those who do

not feel at home in your church—wounded by strict rules or judgmental accusations. We pray for those who long to build a home with another, but instead find themselves eating another meal alone.

We pray, too, for, (the people lift up their prayers aloud)

God, there are so many who need a home, so help us be builders of that new day. Give us the courage of John, who saw a way forward so clearly. Prepare our hearts for Christ, as he prepared the way. Turn our words into action and our conviction into change. Gracious God, you are a God of open doors and welcome home celebrations. Teach us to be the same. And as we learn, and as we grow, we continue to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying...

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

"What should we do?" I've asked myself that a million times in my life. How do I make a difference? Can I really do anything that could help this hurting world? Is it already too late? Is it already too big? It can feel overwhelming at times. What should we do? We should give what we have. It's all that easy and all that hard. So friends, let us give our tithes and our offerings now, knowing that these gifts help build a world where all have a home—where all are welcomed, fed, loved, and known.

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

- Place your offering in one of our designated offering locations.
- Use our mobile app by texting "dpchurch" to 73256.
- Visit www.dpchurch.com and click "Online and Mobile Giving".

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Love Came Down at Christmas" Leo Sowerby Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine; worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; Love be yours and love be mine; Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti

\*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*)

God who welcomes us home, who creates space, who leaves a chair with our name on it— we have two coats and we are giving one away. That's what this offering is. It's our second coat. It's our hearts on our sleeves. It's our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this one. So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day. Gratefully we pray, amen.

\*Closing Hymn "A Home For All"

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary.
Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed so come back soon.
In the name of our Foundation— Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit go in peace. And may all God's people say. P: Alleluia, Amen.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on Good Christians Friends, Rejoice, BWV 729 J.S. Bach

(Please remain seated during the closing voluntary.)

Flowers for today's service were donated by Irene and Ridley Wills in memory of Jesse Wills II.

Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org by Rev. Larissa Romero



## Note on "Close to Home" Advent—Epiphany Series by A Sanctified Art

"When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. The *Close to Home* theme acknowledges the 'already but not yet' tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. In many ways, these scriptures are like blueprints—detailing the dreams of a God who makes a home with us. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth; sacred ground is all around us.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage."



Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919



The Latin original of this text for Advent dates from at least the 9th century, and the English version was created a millennium later as part of the 19th-century recovery of early Christian hymns. It is provided here with its traditional plainchant setting.

 TEXT: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; as in The Hymnal 1940, alt.
 CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

 MUSIC: Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th cent.; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
 LM

 Text Alt. © 1940 Church Pension Fund
 (alternate harmonization, 671)

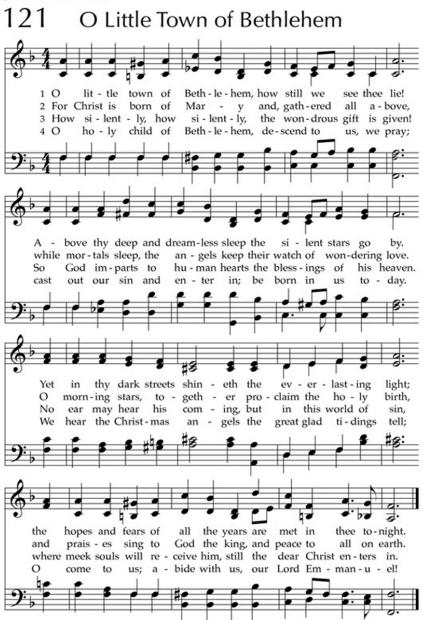
 Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak
 (alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



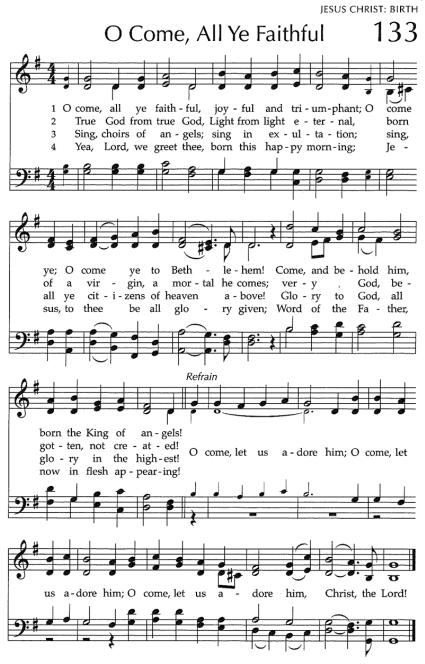
Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

TEXT: German carol; stanzas 1, 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.; stanza 3 trans. Harriet Knuth Spaeth, 1985, alt. ES IST EIN' ROS' MUSIC: Alte Catholische Ceistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609 7.6.7.6.6.7.6 JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868 MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868 ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6 (alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)



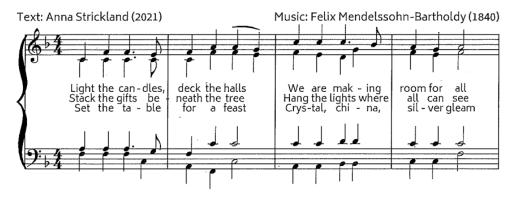
From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

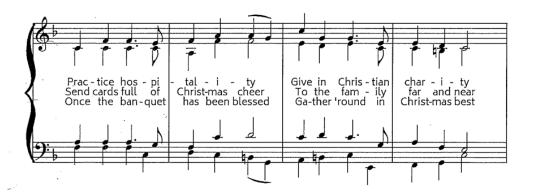


L.

# A Home for All

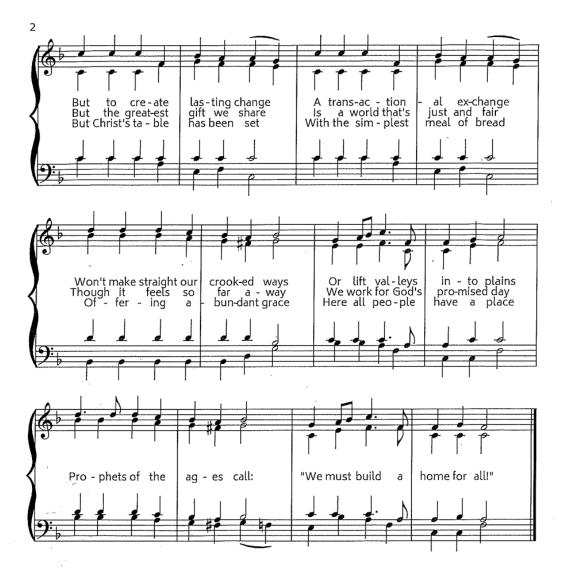
#### MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7 D with refrain





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# DPC 2021 Christmas Services Schedule

# <u>Christmas Eve</u>

Sanctuary Candlelight Service 6:00pm

<u>Christmas Day</u>

Chapel Service 10:00am

December 26th

Sunday Worship 11:00am (26th will be streamed via Facebook only)

Please join us in worship!



# Congregational Breakfast & Silent Auction

Join us **next Sunday, December 19th** from 10am-11am as we share in our traditional congregational Christmas breakfast. We'll have sausage & egg casseroles, biscuits & jam, and more. No need to bring anything - simply come and share a meal with your DPC friends!

While you're there, we hope you'll take a moment to check out our silent auction in the education parlor. Proceeds from the auction will support DPC's Fish & Loaves ministry. Much thanks to Mary Skinner for organizing this year's auction and to the many DPC members who have contributed items.

This year we have several unique experiences up for bids: a private plane flight with Chuck Johnston and a guided tour of the Tennessee State Museum tour with Jim Hoobler. We also have unique holiday gifts including artwork by our Artists-in-Residence, tickets to TPAC shows, and much more! Make plans to finish up your holiday shopping next Sunday at DPC's silent auction!

This year's auction will be open for bidding on December 19th before church and for 30 minutes after worship. It will also be available from 6pm-7pm as part of the Benefit concert for The Contributor. The auction will end at 6:55pm. Items can be paid for and picked up after the concert, but you do not have to be present to win. If you have the highest bid, we will call you Monday, December 20th to coordinate payment and item pickup.

Any questions? Email events@dpchurch.com for more information

## Communications Committee Update

The Communications Committee would like to highlight some of the ways you can get connected with your church family and stay informed of the events & activities happening at DPC.

1. Join us for Sunday Worship. We have resumed in-person worship each Sunday at 11am. (except for 12/26, which will be virtual only.) Childcare is available during worship. You can view our COVID policies here. We'd love to welcome you to DPC! Bring a friend and check us out!

2. Subscribe to the DPC newsletter & e-votion. If you're reading this, odds are you're already doing this one!

3. Like us on Facebook. From our Facebook page, you can view services live on Sundays at 11am or catch up on previous services at your convenience. We also post announcements and share events for our Outreach Partner Organizations and more!

 Unfortunately, there are currently 2 Facebook pages for DPC. We are working on fixing the issue, but for now double check you've got the right page when tagging DPC.

4. Save your bulletins. The church bulletin is more than an order of worship. In the back of each week's bulletin, we have a list of upcoming events and activities. There's a QR code you can scan that takes you to our digital calendar of upcoming events.

5. Grab a December calendar from the narthex. We created a special paper calendar noting everything happening at DPC in December. Pick one up to stick on your fridge or take a pic to have on your phone. Committee meetings, special events, and worship services - it's all there on one handy page!

6. Bookmark **www.dpchurch.com**. We are working hard to get our website updated and revised to better meet the needs of the congregation. For starters, we are sprucing up the homepage & beefing up the calendar. Wondering what's coming up for DPC? Check here to find out!

7. Get involved by volunteering or joining a committee. We have a quick volunteer interest form on our webpage to help connect you with a committee, mission, ministry, or preferred area of service at DPC. Once you submit the online form, our office manager will forward it to the right person for your interests, and someone will contact you about getting involved.

8. Follow @dpcnashville on Instagram and subscribe to our Youtube channel. While we don't post on these accounts quite as regularly, these social media channels are still a great way to stay connected to DPC.

- DPC's Instagram Page
- DPC's YouTube page

9. Follow @browsingroomgallery on Instagram. For extra credit, consider following the Instagram account for DPC's art gallery. The Browsing Room is where we exhibit work by our Artists-in-Residence. "AIRing it Out" will be on exhibit through February 2022 and features 6 of our current AiRs.

10. Make sure your information is up to date in the church directory and call or send letters to your church family members!

These are just a few easy ways to stay connected with the mission & ministry of DPC. We welcome new members, email **events@dpchurch.com** if you'd like to learn more about this committee.



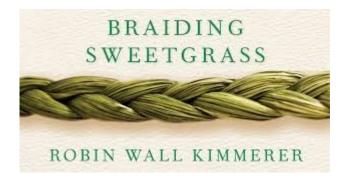
# MERRY CHRISTMAS To our church family:

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



Copies of the December Calendar are available in the narthex.





## <u>DPC Book Club: Braiding Sweetgrass</u> by Robin Wall Kimmerer

DPC's book club will meet on **Thursday, January 6th** at 6:30 p.m. via zoom. We will be discussing Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

## Nursery Care Available for Sunday Worship

We are thankful to have nursery care available for Sunday mornings. Nursery care will be provided during the worship service for children through age 5. The nursery is located on the 2nd floor and is ready to welcome the youngest of DPC attendees.

## Current Worship Procedures

For our full set of procedures please visit www.dpchurch.com under Events/ Covid Safety.

- To help encourage everyone to make full use of our wonderful sanctuary, we have roped off rows where we ask you not to sit. We hope this will help encourage more social distancing.
- When sitting in a socially distanced pew, you can remove your mask.
- If you are singing or moving about the sanctuary, we request that you wear a mask.
- If you are not yet vaccinated, we request that you wear a mask any time you are inside the church.
- Nursery workers will wear masks to help protect our youngest church attendees.

#### **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 2021

<u>Class of 2021</u> Jim Hoobler David Maddox <u>Class of 2022</u> Erin Bell Tom Byl Jake Byl <u>Class of 2023</u> Tom Wills Samera Zavaro Leslee Hughes

## THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Larissa Romero, Pastor Dena Swoner, Office Manager Paulino Jarquin, Maintenance Manager Dr. William Taylor, Director of Music

## <u>Parking</u>

Parking for Sunday worship is in the SP+ garage at 147 4th Ave. N.

You must come down 4th from Church Street. Parking in this garage is complimentary from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parking vouchers are necessary to exit the garage without having to pay. To get one, just ask one of our greeters.