



# DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

*Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed*



February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Assisted listening devices are available in the Narthex and Philips Foyer.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Jesus, My Great High Priest*

*Healey Willan*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all you people, come and worship.

People: **God has made a covenant with us.**

Leader: Come, all creatures of the earth, come and worship.

People: **God has made a covenant with all creatures.**

Leader: Remember the covenant and give thanks.

People: **God will not fail us. God remembers us. We are held in God's love.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 39

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*Faithfulness*

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Amazing Grace Ayegbayo*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the rainbow, you made a covenant with all creatures, promising life and hope.**

**God of pathways, you show us how we should walk.**

**Yet we forget our connection with one another and think that we are the center of the universe.**

**We wander from your paths of truth into paths of deceit and pride...**

*(personal prayers of confession)*

**Forgive us and lead us back into the arms of your love. Amen.**

KYRIE 575

*Kyrie Eleison (Christopher Pardini)*

**Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*(Please turn to your neighbor, introduce yourself, and pass the peace of Christ.)*

\*RESPONSE TO PARDON HYMN 543

*Green Tyler*

**God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (stanzas 1 & 3)**

**God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;**

**God, be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.**

**Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning, strength of wind,**

**depth of the sea to soil of planet: O Christ surround me; O Christ surround me.**

*Children are invited to come forward for the Inter-Generational Moment during the last stanza of the hymn.*

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**Kids Connected** is a new faith formation program for children to engage with the Bible, connect with God and one another. Children PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to leave the sanctuary with their teachers, after the inter-generational moment. After worship, children can be picked up in the room next to the nursery. All children are also welcome to remain in worship with their families. There are worship materials located in the Foyer to assist children in their exploration of worship. Today's Kids Connected Leaders: Sarah Collier, Jason Craw, and Lori McMahan

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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT: What is a Covenant?*

Hikie Allen IV

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

Adults: **May God be with you there.**

Children: **May God be with you here.**

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION*

Margaret Sheets

*OLD TESTAMENT READING*

Genesis 9:8-17  
(pew Bible, page 7, OT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Lent: 'Promises of God' Series**

*"A Covenant with All Creation"*

*SERMON*

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from Confession of 1967)*

Mark Hoskins

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

**God has created human beings for a personal relation with himself that they may respond to the love of the Creator...**

**God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose of Israel and for humanity would be realized.**

*MOMENT OF GRATITUDE*

Rev. Vernon Gramling

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER*

**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.**

*RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP*

Michelle Jones

*(Please sign and pass the **Ritual of Friendship Register** at this time so that we might know your concerns, and keep you informed about the life and ministry of this community of faith.)*

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING*

*Scan the QR Code on the back of the bulletin to give online!*

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM*

*A Lenten Meditation*

*Douglas E. Wagner*

Jesus, in thy dying woes, even while Thy lifeblood flows, craving pardon for Thy foes: Hear us, Holy Jesus. May our hearts to Thee incline, looking from our cross to Thine; cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, Holy Jesus. When we seem in vain to pray, and our hope seems far away, In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, Holy Jesus. May we thirst Thy love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe where the healing waters flow: Hear us, Holy Jesus. Brighten all our heavenward way with an ever holier ray till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, Holy Jesus. May Thy life and death supply grace to live and grace to die, grace to reach our home on high: Hear us, Holy Jesus.  
*[Thomas B. Pollock]*

*\*DOXOLOGY 708 (stanza 1)*

***We Give Thee but Thine Own***

*Schumann*

**We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

## FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*CLOSING HYMN 833

*O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go*

*St. Margaret*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Wilmesherr

\*CHORAL AMEN

*four-fold, in G*

*John Stainer*

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Let Is All With Gladsome Voice*

*Healey Willan*

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### Music

Matthew McMahan, *Minister of Music, Choirmaster & Organist*; Chancel Choir

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### Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of my parents

*George and Phyllis Kelly*

by Trish Kelly Allen

† † †

### February is DEAM Month at DPC

Did You Know . . . that DEAM (Decatur-area Emergency Assistance Ministry) distributed over 122,000 lbs. of food to their clients during 2023? WOW!! Throughout the month of February, DPC is collecting most needed food and hygiene items to help re-stock DEAM's always busy food pantry. Let's help DEAM surpass last year's collection of 122,000 lbs.!!

Items for February: Jelly (Strawberry or Grape), one lb. packages of yellow rice, tuna packets, Vienna sausage, tea bags (regular sized), canned collard greens, peanut butter crackers, corn muffin mix (small boxes), Saltine crackers, canned fruit, hearty soups and condensed soups (chicken noodle, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom), full sized hygiene products – toothpaste, deodorant and soap, reusable cloth bags and toilet tissue.

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### Annual Congregational Meeting on March 3

Join us in worship on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Annual Congregational Meeting where we will receive the Annual Report and the 2024 Budget, elect new members to the Nominations Ministry, approve changes to the Pastor's Terms of Call, and kick off the 'Keep DPC Cool' Campaign for critical HVAC replacements.

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### Easter Egg Collection

We will have an egg hunt on Palm Sunday, March 24! We need donations of plastic eggs—new and used will be accepted! Bins for collection will be in the Fellowship Hall and the Children's Library. Please drop off your eggs by March 20. Thank you!

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### Spread Love to DPC Kids

Did you see the tree decorated with pink lights and hearts? We need volunteers for Bible & Music Camp and the hearts have opportunities for donations and volunteers. Just pick a heart from the tree and write your info on the nearby clipboard list and you will be contacted with more details. Contact Emily Wilmesherr with questions at ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org.

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### Celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

**Etta Jacobsen** will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 27! Help us gather 100+ cards full of birthday wishes! If you need a card, some will be available in the Philips Foyer February 18 and 25. Drop your card in the box and it will be delivered to Etta for her special day!

**Registration is open for Bible & Music Camp, June 3–7, 2024. Scan the QR Code to sign up!**



You are a compassionate and generous congregation who is excellent at showing up for others. Let's make it a goal to get to know three new people of different generations in this new year. Let's see how these relationships shape us as individuals, as well as our wider community. Who are you going to show up for this year? Write the names of three new people you would like to get to know on the lines below. Tear out this part of your bulletin and put it up where you will see it often.

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**New Lenten Matthew 25 Bible Study on Wednesdays**

Pastor Emily will lead a 4 week series for adults in the Parlor Classroom. We will study Matthew 25 and discuss what it means for the DPC community to be a Matthew 25 church. We will look at how we can be a healthy and vital congregation who seeks to eradicate poverty and dismantle racism. We encourage you to come each week but please do not let a week or two miss keep you from coming. We would love to have people whenever they can attend. Please contact Emily if you have any questions.. *There will be no Wednesday Night activities March 27 during Holy Week, but there will be dinner at 6:15 pm after the Maundy Thursday service.* Todd Speed's Faithful Living group will resume April 10. No Wednesday activities Spring Break Week-April 1 – 5.

Refer to the card in the hymnal pew pocket for more information on DPC.

**Look what's coming up!**

Look for more information in our announcement slides and church emails on these events  
(If you're not receiving our emails, please contact dhowell@dpchurch.org)

**February is DEAM Month! Help re-stock the Food Pantry at Decatur-area Emergency Assistance Ministry!**

**February 21–Matthew 25 4-Week Bible Study During Lent** led by Emily Wilmesherr on Wednesdays in the Parlor Classroom at 5:30 pm. Will continue March 6, 13, and 20.

**February 21–Club 345**, 6:45 to 7:30 pm in the Tween Room

**February 25–Agnes Scott/UKirk Sunday**

**February 28–“Journey to Easter” Lenten Workshop**, All ages are invited to the Keith Parlor at explore through prayer stations and activities

**March 2–Memorial Service for David Van Buren**, 11:00 am in the sanctuary, light reception to follow

**March 3–Annual Congregational Meeting**, receive Annual Report and 2024 Budget, Elect New Class to the Nominations Ministry, Approve Changes to Pastor's Terms of Call, and Kick Off of the Keep DPC Cool Campaign for critical HVAC replacements

**March 17–Mission Partner Sarah Junkin Woodard to Visit DPC**

**March 24–Palm Sunday; Procession of Palms; Brunch & Egg Hunt after worship**

**March 28–Maundy Thursday Service** with Communion, 5:30 pm, Sanctuary. Dinner at 6:15 pm

**March 29–Good Friday Choral Tenebrae Service**, 7:30 pm in the sanctuary

**March 31–Easter Sunday!** Decorate the cross on the lawn; Festival Service of Easter with Brass Quartet

**Lenten Series: “Promises of God”**

Sunday, February 18  
Sunday, February 25  
Sunday, March 3  
Sunday, March 10  
Sunday, March 17

“A Covenant with All Creation”  
“Covenant with a Particular People”  
“So That It May Go Well with You”  
“A Covenant of Healing”  
“A New Covenant of Knowing”

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr  
Rev. Sarah Hooker; Agnes Scott/UKirk Day  
Rev. Dr. Todd Speed Annual Meeting  
Rev. Dr. Todd Speed  
Amazing Grace Ayegbayo

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**A Bold Vision and Invitation:**

- Building Congregational Vitality
- Dismantling Structural Racism
- Eradicating Systemic Poverty



**DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

205 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030 / www.dpchurch.org / 404-378-1777

Scan this code with your smart phone to give online!

