



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed



February 25, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent / Annual Congregational Meeting

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Adoration (from SONATE PASCALE)

Nicolas Jaques Lemmens

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

**BELONGING TEAM REPORT and CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 19)*

Mike Florence

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Leader: The reverence for the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

People: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

People: Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable unto you,
O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 159*

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Kingfold

ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM AND OPENING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Dudley Larus, Clerk of Session, and Dr. Speed

MOTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION

1) Receive the Annual Report

Dudley Larus

2) Receive the 2024 Budget

3) Approve Changes in Terms of Call for Pastor

4) Elect Members to Nominations, Class of 2026

Nominees: Sue Bingeman, Dené Dixon, and Jeff Vaughan

5) 'Keep DPC Cool' Campaign Kick Off

Scott Overcarsh, Stewardship Ministry

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we—as a congregation, community, and nation—have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have not loved our neighbor as you have loved us; we have not lived by your standards of righteousness and justice; and we have failed to follow the guidance of your Word...

(silence is kept for personal prayers of confession)

Have mercy upon us, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness, for your name's sake, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

RESPONSE TO CONFESSION: 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 & 2)

**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.**

**Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness: O Christ surround me; O Christ surround me.**

ANTHEM

A Child's Prayer
Covenant Choir

Colin Taylor

Father, we thank Thee for the night And for the pleasant morning light, For rest and food and loving care, And all that makes the world so fair. Help us to do the thing we should, To be to others kind and good, In all we do, in all we say, To grow more loving every day. *[anonymous]*

Children not in the choir are invited to come forward for the Inter-Generational Moment following the anthem.

Kids Connected is a new faith formation program for children to engage with the Bible, connect with God and one another. Children PreK-5th 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: Kelsey Hathorn, Bekki Poelker, and Lori McMahan

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr and Miche Baskett

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

Adults: May God be with you there.

Children: May God be with you here.

ENGAGE TEAM REPORT and PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Anne Fayssoux

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 20:1-21

(pew Bible, page 66, OT)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Dr. Speed

Matthew 22:36-40

(pew Bible, page 25, NT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lent: 'Promises of God' Series

HOMILY

"So That It May Go Well with You"

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA, 1991)

Amazing Grace Ayegbayo

God bound the people of Israel to God's self in covenant. Freed slaves became the people of God when they accepted the Lord's covenant. God charged them to respond to God's rescuing love by obeying God's commandments. Their life together was to express the justice and compassion of their holy God. Since we, too, are the Lord's covenant people, we know we must be holy as the Lord is holy. We must keep God's commandments, not in order to earn or compel the Lord's favor, but to reflect the character of God and to live as God's grateful and loving people. Amen.

CARING TEAM REPORT, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Joe Mehlhop

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

Amazing Grace Ayegbayo

(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.)

RESOURCES TEAM REPORT and PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Elizabeth Webb

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lonesome Valley

American Folk Tune

Chancel Choir; Ivan Segovia, baritone

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Jesus walked His lonesome valley, He had to walk it for Himself; Nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it for Himself. Jesus went to stand his trial: He had to stand it for Himself; Nobody else could stand it for Him. He had to stand it for Himself. I must walk my lonesome valley, I have to walk it for myself. Nobody else can walk it for me. I have to walk it for myself.
[text: Traditional, altered, Gilbert M. Martin]

*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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Elizabeth Webb

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Wilmesherr

Responding with Thanksgiving

Dr. Speed

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: All honor and praise and glory be to God.

People: The Lord's name be praised forever.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus 552 (choir and congregation)

arr. Richard Proulx

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Rev. Wilmesherr and Dr. Speed

Agnus Dei (choir and congregation)

arr. Richard Proulx

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us Lamb of God, and grant us Your peace.

The Sharing of the Joyful Feast with the Community of Faith

(Please exit your pew to the right to come forward to receive the elements. Wait until you return to your seat to partake of the elements. Raise your hand if you are unable to come forward and we will bring the elements to you.)

COMMUNION ANTHEM DUET

The Song of the Tree of Life

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Mark Lester, tenor; Allison Melton, mezzo soprano

Unto him that overcometh shall be given of the tree of Life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. On either side of the river groweth the Tree of Life, the Leaves of the Tree are for thy healing. In the midst of that fair City flows the river of Water of Life clear as crystal. Who so will, let him take of the Water of Life freely. Who so drinketh of this water shall never thirst. Take thou the Leaves of the Tree of Life. So shalt thou enter in through the Gates of the City.

[text: adapted from Revelation]

OUTREACH TEAM REPORT and PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dudley Larus

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Beecher

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Deep Peace

Ron Alexander/John Bell

Deep peace of the running wave to you; Deep peace of the flowing air to you; Deep peace of the quiet earth to you; Deep peace of the shining stars to you; Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.
[ancient Gaelic rune]

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Credo in unum Deum (We Believe in One God)

Everett Titcomb

Music

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

† † †

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God

in loving memory of

Charles A. Hicks

by John & Mary Kline

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!

† † †

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.

† † †

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

† † †



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)

March 17—Mission Partner Sarah Junkin Woodard to Visit DPC

March 24—Palm Sunday; Procession of Palms; Children's Choir Sings; 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

April 3—NO Wednesday Night Activities (Spring Break)

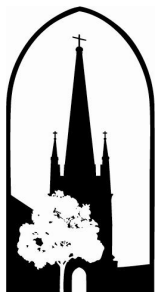
April 28—Festival of Praise, all choirs sing; Celebrating Brandon Laird's 20th Anniversary at Decatur Presbyterian Children's Community; Youth Fund Raiser BBQ after worship

Lenten Series: "Promises of God"

Sunday, March 3
Sunday, March 10
Sunday, March 17

"So That It May Go Well with You"
"A Covenant of Healing"
"A New Covenant of Knowing"

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed Annual Meeting
Rev. Dr. Todd Speed
Amazing Grace Ayegbayo



- A Bold Vision and Invitation:**
- Building Congregational Vitality
 - Dismantling Structural Racism
 - Eradicating Systemic Poverty



Scan this code
with your
smart phone to
give online!



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