



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Every child of God ~ belonging, engaging, being transformed



March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Chorale Prelude
(Thou art with me: Thy rod and staff comfort me)*

Douglas E. Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107)*

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: **When we cried to the Lord in our trouble, God saved us from our distress.**

Leader: God sent out God's word and healed us, and delivered us from destruction.

People: **Let us thank the Lord for God's steadfast love!**

Leader: Let us praise the Lord for God's wonderful works to humankind!

People: **Let us offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and sing with songs of joy!**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 718*

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

Bourbon

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Emily Wilmesherr

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 your covenants 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 & 4)

**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.**

**Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
And from beneath, above, and all ways: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

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

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: Jason Crow and Sarah Collier, and Lori McMahan

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

INTER-GENERATIONAL MOMENT

Amazing Grace Ayegbayo

John 3:16, John 3:16

For God so loved the world That He gave His only begotten Son
That whosoever believeth in Him Should not ever perish
But have everlasting life.

Leader: We now go our separate ways.

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

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sophie Trujillo

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 3:14-21

(pew Bible, page 94, NT)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

Numbers 21:4-9

(pew Bible, page 139, OT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

"A Covenant of Healing"

HOMILY

Dr. Speed

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA Book of Confessions)

Rev. Fletcher

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still...With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

MOMENT OF GRATITUDE: :Live Stream Team

Nicole Jiskoot

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

Rev. Fletcher

(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 and KEEP DPC COOL ANNOUNCEMENT

R. G. Evans

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

John Rutter

Chancel Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

Numbers 6:24

*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 377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Speed

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Lord, Lead Us With Your Gentle Hand

Thomas Holcombe

Chancel Choir

Lord, lead us with your gentle hand, and grant us your love and peace. Amen.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Voluntary in E-flat

Douglas E. Wagner

(God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear the Lord)

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

Wonderful Wife & Mother

Barbara Reich

by Bob and Rob Reich

† † †

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!

† † †

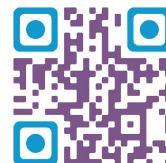
Spread Love to DPC Kids

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.
Visit <https://tinyurl.com/DPCBAM2024> or 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.

† † †

Communion Helpers Needed

Are you glad we have gone back to actual cups of juice for communion? Would you like to be on the team that prepares communion for all of us, and/or cleans up the cups and trays afterwards? You could help a little or a lot. Write your name and a way to contact you below, and someone will be in touch! Thank you so much!

Name: _____ Best way to contact: _____

Text number: _____ Email: _____

Phone number: _____

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 10—PW Women's Gathering, gather in the Parlor after worship to walk to Raging Burrito for lunch

March 12—PW Women's Day Gathering, 10:00 am to Noon in the Parlor Classroom/Parlor, lesson and lunch

March 14—PW Women's Night Gathering, 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Parlor, dinner and lesson

March 17—Mission Partner Sarah Junkin Woodard to Visit DPC

March 18—Free Event: "Walk with Me—Loving Steps on the Dementia Journey" by Carolyn Cook, 7:00 pm in the Parlor

March 24—Palm Sunday; Procession of Palms; Children's Choir Sings; Congregational 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 17

"A New Covenant of Knowing"

Amazing Grace
Ayegbayo

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24

"The One Who Comes in the Name of the Lord"

Tully Fletcher

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Service with Communion

Nicole Jiskoot

Good Friday, March 29

A Choral Tenebrae Service

Chancel Choir

Easter Sunday, March 31

"Who Will Roll Away the Stone?"

Todd Speed

Easter Season Series: Faith in Action (April 7–May 19)

Sunday, April 7

"Sharing Possessions"

Emily Wilmesherr

Sunday, April 14

"Turning to God" Senior Sunday

HS Seniors

Sunday, April 21

"Speaking What We have Seen and Heard"

Todd Speed

Sunday, April 28

"Obeying the Spirit" Festival of Praise

Todd Speed

† † †

A Bold Vision and Invitation:

- **Building Congregational Vitality** by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with their community, seeing new disciples engaged in ministry and longstanding believers develop in faith as the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in word and deed.
- **Dismantling Structural Racism** by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating Systemic Poverty** by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



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