



For what we proclaim is not ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants
for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:5

What is the church?

God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

The New City Catechism, Question & Answer #48

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

The First Sunday of Advent — December 1, 2019 A.D.

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus! If you are a guest with us, please be sure to sign our Welcome Pads when they are passed around before the service. Children are welcome in our worship. We have a nursery available for children 3 and under. Children 4 to 6 years of age may be dismissed to Children's Worship prior to the sermon. Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

Song of Assembly¹

Glory In The Highest

Tomlin

The heav'nly host proclaim Your birth, "Glory to God, and praise be on the earth!"
Your name is near, Emmanuel, "God with us here, God pleased with us to dwell."

Glory in the highest, glory in the highest, glory in the highest

Apart from You there is no God, light of the world, the bright and morning star
Your name will shine for all to see, You are the one, You are my glory
And no one else could ever compare to You, Lord, All the earth together declares.....

Glory in the highest, glory in the highest Glory in the highest to You, Lord, to You, Lord

All the earth will sing Your praise, the moon and stars, the sun and rain
Every nation will proclaim You are God and You will reign
Glory, glory Hallelujah, glory, glory to You, Lord. Glory, glory Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Welcome and Announcements

Report of the Living Church

Cathy Schmid

Responsive Call to Worship

from Psalm 124:8; Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:11,14

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: Our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace!

Pastor: Give glory to God in the highest through Jesus, who is Christ the Lord!

All: Hallelujah, Amen!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 21

Hymn of Praise

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

¹ All songs used by permission or covered under CCLI license # 391165.

The Reading for the First Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 2:1-5

George & Joyce Kitchens

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Responsive Confession of Sin

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord, our Promised Hope! Let us confess our sins and sorrow to him... Our Savior, you have promised to crush the head of Satan and to lift our heads with eternal hope.

People: But we are prone to forget our hope and its reasons and to doubt your promise to deliver in our daily lives.

Pastor: You came to rule us and give us refuge in you.

People: But we are prone to seek refuge in the ways of the world rather than trusting your power to rescue and restore.

Pastor: You came to serve us as a just and gracious King.

People: But we are prone to rebel against your kingship and to live for our personal peace and comfort rather than the justice and mercy of your kingdom.

Pastor: You came to rescue us as a good shepherd.

People: But we are prone to wander and run from you and from all that is good for us. Messiah, have mercy on us ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...*

Pastor: Gracious Father, please lead our faltering, wayward hearts back to you. By your Spirit's power, help us remember our hope, run to you for refuge, and find fullness of joy in following Jesus our Promise, our Shepherd, our Messiah-King... **Amen!**

We Live Through Him

from 1 John 4:9 and 1 Peter 2:24

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.... He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Midnight Clear (Love Song)

Myrin/Tomlin/Cash

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth good will to men from heaven's all-gracious King."

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,

And still their heav'n'ly music floats o'er all the weary world:

And man at war with man hears not the love song which they bring,

O hush the noise and cease the strife and hear the angels sing.

Glory to God in the highest, glory to God evermore. Good news, great joy for all.

Melody breaks through the silence, Christ the Savior is born.

Jesus, the love song of God. (Chorus 2x)

Jesus, the love song of God.

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.*

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;

Alleluia, Alleluia! Sounds thru the earth and skies.

Come, Oh Redeemer, Come

Ortega

Father enthroned on high, Holy, holy ancient and eternal Light, Hear our prayer.

Come, oh Redeemer, come; grant us mercy. Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.

Lord, save us from the dark, Of our striving faithless and troubled hearts, Weighed down.

Look now upon our need; Lord be with us. Heal us and make us free, From our sin.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Kent Quinn

Singing to the Lord

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Worship Choir

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by Thine advent here;

O come, Emmanuel. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight!

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon²

Pastor Rick Stark

Future Grace: *Of Bones and Boys and Blessing* Genesis 47:28-48:22 (page 41)

We Respond

Ancient Words

DeShazo

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world. They resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart. Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us home.

*Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.*

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age. Came to us through sacrifice,
O heed the faithful words of Christ. Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion, also called The Lord's Supper or Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to share in this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live in a deeper communion with Jesus. If you are not a Christian, or you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the Church.

(Gluten free communion bread is available upon request; please speak to the pastor before the service or alert your server during communion.)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright, How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him, as angel heralds said.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

² 4, 5, & 6 year-old children may be dismissed before the sermon to Children's Worship in room 132.

Benediction³
For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Let us therefore walk in his light. Amen.

from 2 Corinthians 4:6

Song of Faith

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O come Thou Rod of Jesse, free, Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

McDonald

This Week

Tuesday 6:30am Men’s Bible Study @ Java Jaay (1 Corinthians)	Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm DPC Youth! (6 th -8 th Grade) DPC Youth! (9 th -12 th Grade)
Tuesday 9:30-11:00am Ladies Bible Study @ DPC (Revelation)	Wednesday 6:15-7:30pm Worship Choir Practice
Tuesday @ Noon Men’s Bible Study @ Kent’s Office (Revelation)	Wednesday 6:15-7:15pm Adult Open Door Study
Tuesday 6:30pm Women’s Bible Study @ NCC (Gospel of Mark)	Wednesday 6:15-7:30pm Life Groups
Wednesday 5:00pm Middle School Choir / Soli Deo Gloria	Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm 4 Year Olds & Kindergarten / Kid’s Quest 1 st - 2 nd Grade / Kid’s Quest 3 rd - 5 th Grade / Kid’s Quest
Wednesday 5:30pm Church Family Meal	Wednesday 7:30pm Praise Worship Band Practice
Wednesday 6:00-6:30pm Kids Choirs: 5 Year Old - 2 nd Grade / Kids of the King 3 rd Grade - 5 th Grade / Dare 2 Declare	Friday 6:30am Men’s Bible Study @ Temple, Inc. (Paul’s Letters to the Thessalonians)

³ Just as God called us into His presence at the beginning, so now He commands His blessing upon us as we depart. We look up and extend our hands in a posture of thanksgiving as we receive this great gift. Our final response to God’s assurance of His peace and presence upon those who are in Christ is a chorus of joyful song.

5

DPC Announcements

Get More Connected: Sign up for the weekly email by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org.

Next Up! The next four books of Scripture that we'll be reading together via the Cultivate daily readings will be 2 Corinthians, Song of Songs, Hebrews, and Nahum. Sign up today by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org

Midweek Ministries: Join us each Wednesday, 5:30pm - 7:30pm @ DPC. Come enjoy a cooked or catered meal (\$5/person or \$20/family) and then plug into a variety of fellowship & growth opportunities: Children, Youth, Choir, Life Groups, Open Door Study.

Behold The Lamb of God Concert: Southwood Presbyterian Church is bringing Andrew Peterson's "Behold The Lamb of God" Christmas concert to Huntsville! Tonight, Sunday, December 1st at 7:00 PM, @ the Von Braun Center. A great way to kick off the Christmas season. For tickets, visit www.southwood.org/beholdthelamb.

ROOTS Registration Due December 8th

ROOTS Youth Winter Retreat, January 24-26, 2020. Registration forms have gone out. Cost: \$110 (includes t-shirt) is due next Sunday, December 8th. If you don't have a form, please see Tommy or Nathan.

JOY Christmas Social: Both ladies & gentlemen are invited to a Christmas Social & Ornament Exchange* on Tuesday, December 10, from 10:00-noon at Doug & Mary Chism's, 2804 Montrose Drive SW ,(in Dunbarton across from DPC) *Each person should bring an unwrapped ornament!

Gifts For Nursery Workers: We want to thank our nursery workers for the love they have shown our children over the past year! We have 5 workers. If you'd like to participate, please bring 5 of any type of item (lotions, candy, stationary, gift cards, etc.) to fill a gift basket for each worker. Please give these items to Erika Ladner by Dec. 11th.

Christmas Cantata: Please join us and invite your friends Sunday, Dec. 15th, 5:00-6:00 pm as the Worship Choir, Soli Deo Gloria, Dare 2 Declare and Kids of the King present "The Carols of Christmas". Come hear the story of our Savior's birth through music and scripture. Nursery will be provided. Reception to follow.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: A celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!, Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 pm.

Sermon Outline Notes: for adults and children are available on the back table.

"I have stored up your word in my heart..."

Psalm 119:11

"FIND A METHOD OF ACCOUNTABILITY... Because of our tendency toward sloth, most of us need more accountability on Scripture memory than on other disciplines. And the busier we are, the more we tend to excuse ourselves from this commitment.

"Some.... have developed personalized means of accountability to this discipline that keep them faithful. Most Christians, however, are more consistent when they meet or talk regularly with someone else—not always another Christian—with whom they review their verses."

—Donald S. Whitney

On various tables around the church, you'll find stacks of cards. Pick one up and stick it in your pocket. Throughout the month of December, read and reflect and pray through the verse you find printed there. You'll find yourself memorizing it.

There's only one verse printed on the card per month, but if you're feeling ambitious, there are enough Bible references on the card to take you through the entire month, one verse per week.