



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 does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

The New City Catechism, Question & Answer #50

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

The Third Sunday of Advent — December 15, 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

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Montgomery

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.
Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.
Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.
Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.
All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Ever more your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Welcome and Announcements

Report of the Living Church

Jordan Herrarte

Responsive Call to Worship

from Revelation 1:7-8; 21:1-3; Isaiah 52:10

Pastor: Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.

People: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Pastor: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

People: And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Pastor: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

People: Christ is coming!

Pastor: He is coming indeed!

All: And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 23

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Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her king;
 Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
 And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow; nor thorns infest the ground,
 He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

The Reading for the Third Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 35:1-10

James & Margaret Fudge

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

O Lord, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to the needs of the poor and downtrodden, the lonely and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice as we should. Nor have we cared about those who are without Christ and without hope in this world. We have been silent when we could have spoken and have lacked boldness in our witness. Lord, forgive us for our offenses. And grant that by the power of your Spirit we might live in light of your coming again ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

He Will Appear Again, To Save

Hebrews 9:27-28

Just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen."

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around, and glory shone around.

Fear not, said he for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind,
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, To you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.

To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
The Savior, Who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign.

The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.

All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth, from heaven to men, Begin and never cease, begin and never cease!

How Great our Joy

Traditional

While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so He did say, In Bethlehem a Child today.

There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well, That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Singing to the Lord

Let There Be Light

All Choirs

From the beginning, the Father had a magnificent plan,
revealed through the law and the prophets to fulfill the redemption of man.
He spoke after centuries of silence in the midst of a still, starry night;
And Emmanuel came down among us as the Father said, "Let there be light!"
Let there be light, let it shine bright, piercing the darkness with dazzling white.
Hope for the hopeless was born on that night, when God sent His Son and said, "Let there be light!"
Now we who are His have a calling to praise Him and make His name known,
So one day the presence of Jesus shines in every heart and every home.
I am the light of the world. I am the light of the world. Let there be light!
People who walked in great darkness, gathering from near and afar;
Shepherds with flocks in their keeping, three kings who followed a star;
Together the poor and the richest, witnessed that Bethlehem night:
A sky full of angels announcing the birth of a glorious light.

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon²

Pastor Tommy Lee

Christmas: He Came Down To Earth From Heaven **John 3:13; 6:38; 6:51**

We Respond

Once in Royal David's City

Alexander

Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
He came down to earth from Heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
And, through all His wondrous childhood, He would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be, mild, obedient, good as He.
And our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,
and He leads his children on, to the place where He is gone.
Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned, all in white shall wait around.

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.)

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

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Caswall

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies;
He who throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say, what's your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep, on the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night, Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Savior's birth".

Benediction³

from Philippians 1:9,11

Now may your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Song of Faith

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

McDonald

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.

This Week

Tuesday 6:30am

Men's Bible Study @ Java Jaay (1 Corinthians)

Tuesday 9:30-11:00am

Ladies Bible Study @ DPC (Revelation)

Tuesday @ Noon

Men's Bible Study @ Kent's Office (Revelation)

Tuesday 6:30pm

Women's Bible Study @ NCC (Gospel of Mark)

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.

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: will resume Wednesday, January 8th.

Christmas Cantata: Please join us and invite your friends tonight, 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.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

FALL 2019

SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AM

The Fun Adult Class! James has 59 commands in 108 verses, directing us to the royal law of King Jesus (2:8). The hasty reader may not see much of the gospel in James, but the double mention of God's grace at the rhetorical climax of the book shows that the gospel of James is still the message of God's grace for sinners. Please join us.

New Sunday School Class! The Foundations Class and Young Adult Class have merged! This class, led by Stuart Smith and Nathan White meets in the parlor. Our first series is on 1 Corinthians. We'd love for you to join us!

Sedona Class: Led by George Godwin, we are currently studying through the Book of Acts. The class meets in the classroom down the back hallway from the sanctuary, across from the choir room. Guests are always welcome!

Ladies Sunday School Class: We are studying Daniel, in the library at 9:30 am. This is a discussion based Bible study, open to all ladies, please join us!

The WtDPC Class! Led by Pastor Rick Stark, this is a warm fellowship and opportunity for all our guests and any interested in understanding the life, theology, and direction of DPC. Room 142 at the end of the Children's wing.

Session

George Godwin
Jeff Keith
Mike McMahan
Kent Quinn

Jason Seale
Jay Suggs
Blake Temple
Chip Walraven

Diaconate

James Fudge
Wade Littrell
John Lyons
Scott Missildine

Steve Sasser
Michael Vinson
David Whitcomb
David Zajic

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Associate Pastor
Church Planter, Athens, Alabama
Pastoral Intern
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Kitchen Coordinator
Church Librarian

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Service Times

9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship

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