



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

Optimism hopes for the best without any guarantee of its arriving and is often no more than whistling in the dark. Christian hope, by contrast, is faith looking ahead to the fulfillment of the promises of God. . . . Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come.

Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come.

J.I. Packer

The Lord's Day — July 26, 2020 A.D.

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus! Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

Song of Assembly¹

Sing to the King

Footnote

Sing to the King Who is coming to reign; Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain
Life and salvation His empire shall bring and joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

Come, let us sing a song, a song declaring we belong to Jesus, He is all we need.

Lift up a heart of praise, sing now with voices raised to Jesus, sing to the King.

For His returning we watch and we pray, we will be ready the dawn of that day
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed 'cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King!

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 55:22, 23c

Pastor: Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you;

People: He will never permit the righteous to be moved.

All: I will trust in you, O God.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 55

Hymn of Praise

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Watts

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting You are God, to endless years the same.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:
O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

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Reading of the Word: *Silence... God is not like other gods*

Isaiah 36:1-20

In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army... And there came out to him Eliakim... Shebna...and Joah... And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me?... Behold, you are trusting in Egypt. That broken reed of a staff... But if you say to me, 'We trust in the Lord our God,' is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, You shall worship before this altar?' Come now make a wager with my master the king of Assyria..." Then Eliakim, Shebna and Joah said to Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic... Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people... Then Rabshakeh said stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, 'The LORD will surely deliver us...' Has any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?... Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?" But they were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, 'Do not answer him.'"

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

adaptation of Psalm 51 (Indelible Grace)

God, be merciful to me, on Thy grace I rest my plea; Plenteous in compassion Thou, blot out my transgression now; Wash me, make me pure within; cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin. Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Assurance of Pardon in Christ

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

The Wonderful Cross

Watts/Tomlin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down:
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

*O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross, Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross, All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.*

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an off ring far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Compassion Hymn

Getty

There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us
When the Radiance of heaven came to rescue the lost;
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress
For Your streams of forgiveness and the shade of Your rest.

And with compassion for the hurting, You reached out Your hand
As the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again;
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears,
Heard the sign of the weary, let the children draw near.

*What boundless love, what fathomless grace, You have shown us, O God of compassion!
Each day we live, an offering of praise, As we show to the world Your compassion.*

We stood beneath the cross of Calvary and gazed on Your face,
At the thorns of oppression and the wounds of disgrace;
For surely You have borne our suffering and carried our grief
As You pardoned the scoffer and showed grace to the thief.

Before the Throne of God Above

Bancroft & Cook

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is "Love," who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;

I know that while in heav'n He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart. No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me. To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God. With Christ, my Savior and my God.

Sermon

Series: Be Strong In The Lord (Ephesians 6:10)
X. We Confront The Issue Of Discouragement
2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (page 966)

Pastor Rick Stark

We Respond By Receiving A New Member

The Lord Adds to His Church

Cendi Fuller

To read more about our new member, see page 5.

The Membership Vows (PCA Book of Church Order §57-5)

Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope except through His sovereign mercy?

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as become followers of Christ?

Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your abilities?

Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

Prayer for New Member

Elder Brian Rodgers

We Respond

Doxology

Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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.)

He Knows My Name

Walker

I have a Maker, He formed my heart, Before even time began my life was in His hands

He knows my name, He knows my every thought, He sees each tear that falls and He hears me when I call

I have a Father, He calls me His own, He'll never leave me no matter where I go

Benediction²

Ephesians 3:20-21

May the Lord, who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that you ask or think, according to His power that works within you [and beside you, above you, beneath you, all around you], be glorified in the church, [and in your life], and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Song of Faith

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty

Fitts

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty,

Who was, and is, and is to come.

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty,

Who reigns forevermore.

Introduction of New Member

Cendi A. Fuller was born in Albertville and grew up in Florence. Her parents were raised in Decatur and Hartselle. Cendi has 3 brothers, 2 children (son & daughter) and 2 granddaughters (3rd grandchild expected in October). God's saving claim on her life occurred in her teen years and since then she has experienced significant moments of spiritual renewal. Cendi earned her Associates degree in Business from Calhoun and her Bachelors degree in Business from Athens State. For the past 20 years she has worked for a government contractor at the Redstone Arsenal. Her favorite hobbies are time with family & friends, redecorating, travel and reading.

² 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.

Worship by Live Stream Information: Both services are now Live Streamed. It is the 10:45am service that will be permanently posted to the youtube channel and remain available anytime for those who need to worship with us in that manner. The link is: www.decaturpca.org - click the "Watch Livestream".

Officer Nominations: Voting members may make officer nominations anytime in the month of July. You may do so with the forms found on the round table in the church foyer or by email. Please note that the following officers will be ending their three-year term (or have been on sabbatical), and are willing to stand for election to another term: John Lyons, Mike McMahan, Scott Missildine, Michael Vinson, Greg Smith, Sam Thompson, and David Whitcomb. See Tommy or Rick with any questions.

DPC Adoption Fund: Your gifts are now welcome. *"In you the orphan finds mercy."* Hosea 14.3.

Youth Group Live Stream: Nathan is conducting a live stream for the youth, at 6:00 PM on Wednesday nights. To find the channel, simply go to YouTube and search 'Decatur PCA Youth Ministry.' It should be the top result.

Youth Live Stream Schedule Changes: During "In God's Image," Nathan will conduct the live stream on the Tuesdays of those weeks (7/28, 8/4) at 3:00. Students can watch then as it is live or they can wait to watch it at the normal time on Wednesday nights. This change will only affect those specific weeks.

In God's Image (RYM Replacement): High school (This Mon, 7/27-Thurs, 7/30) & middle school (Mon, 8/3-Thurs, 8/6). Mon-Wed each week will be @ the church. The McMahans have offered their pool on both Thursdays. There is no cost.

Baby Shower: Ladies, there will be a baby shower for Shelby Sasser next Sunday, August 2nd at 2:00 in the Gathering Room. She is registered at Target, Babylist and Amazon. See Margaret Fudge or Sarah Crupi with questions.

Praying for Decatur City Schools: First Priority partners with the churches to pray for our schools. Churches sponsor a campus and go pray for the people who will be there. This year, we are sponsoring Central Office. Sunday evening, August 2, at 6:00, Nathan will be available at Central Office (302 4th Ave NE, Decatur, AL 35601).

Drive-Thru Baby Shower: In order to keep everyone safe, friends and family are having a "Drive Thru" baby shower for Kelly Thomas on Sunday, August 16 @ 2 PM. Everyone is invited to drive by 632 Jackson St SE and say hello. Kelly is having a boy and is registered at Target and babylist.com

DPC Bible Studies via Zoom: All adult men are invited to participate in weekly Bible studies via Zoom (for now). Contact pastor Rick Stark if interested (256.351.6010, rick@decaturpca.org).

At present, we are outside the door, on the wrong side of the door. We can't mingle with the splendors we see.
But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that it will not always be so.

C. S. Lewis

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

Session

George Godwin
Jeff Keith
Kent Quinn
Brian Rodgers

Jason Seale
Jay Suggs
Blake Temple
Chip Walraven

Diaconate

James Fudge
Wade Littrell
John Lyons
Bill Nelson

Sam Thompson
Michael Vinson
David Whitcomb

Church Staff

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Church Planter, Athens, Alabama
Youth Director
Worship Director
Office Coordinator
NextGen Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator
Kitchen Coordinator
Church Librarian

Tommy Lee
Rick Stark
Jeff Hooker
Nathan White
Stu Schieler
Tonya Roth
Debbie Smith
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Elena Suggs
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Service Times

9:00am Worship Service #1 (Mask-Only Service)

10:45am Worship Service #2

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