



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul,
who know themselves to be poor and imperfect,
and who look forward to something greater to come.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.

Revelation 22:20

The First Sunday of Advent — November 29, 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

As With Gladness Men Of Old

Dix

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.
As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly cradle bed.
There to bend the knee before, Him whom heaven and earth adore.
So may we with willing feet, ever seek thy mercy seat.
As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.
Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 80:1-3; Isaiah 25:9

Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 73

Hymn of Praise

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Wesley

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
Joy to those who long to see Thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear.
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

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

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
 By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
 Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
 This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
 Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
 By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

The Reading for the First Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 64:1-9

The Patrick & Veronica Pettus Family (9am)
 The Connor & Britt Ross Family (10:45am)

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

adapted from a traditional Orthodox confession

All-holy Trinity, have mercy upon us. Lord, be gracious; for we are sinners. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for your Name's sake ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Assurance of Pardon

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

A Light Has Dawned

Light

A light has dawned, a King has come,
To redeem every heart and soul,
Born unto us, Emmanuel, the Savior of the world.
Let us adore and praise His name.
Angels rejoice and shepherds bow
At the sight of the holy Child,
Men from afar searching to find the Savior of the world.
Let us adore and praise His name.

*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna, let us sing.
Hosanna in the highest, we give glory to the King,
Glory to the King.*

You are the Christ, the Son of God,
And the nations will rally to You.
Let every heart come recognize the Savior of the world.
Let us adore and praise His name.

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.*
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising all men raising, worship Him, God on high.
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom:
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
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.

A Light in the Darkness
John 1:1-5 (page 886)

Prayers of the People

Pastor: Almighty God, you have taught us to pray not only for ourselves but for all men: hear us as we pray for others, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. For your holy Church on earth; for her ministers, elders, deacons, that all who love the Savior may love him truly and serve him faithfully:

People: We ask You to hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: For all who do not know the Gospel of your love in Jesus Christ, that you would be pleased to gather them into your fold:

People: We ask You to hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: For your missionaries, especially those known to and supported by us, that they may cause your light to shine in the dark places of the earth:

People: We ask You to hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: For our country, for our President and others in authority, that you would guide them in your wisdom:

People: We ask You to hear us, King of Kings.

Pastor: For the poor, the exploited, and those too weak to defend themselves from powerful oppressors; for those seduced into immoral behavior by our increasingly ungodly culture; and especially the women and unborn children abused, injured, and even murdered by the abortion industry in our country:

People: We ask You to hear us, gracious Lord.

Pastor: For all who are in sickness, sorrow, and trouble, that you would comfort and sustain them:

People: We ask You to hear us, O Lord!

Pastor: We give you thanks and praise for the glorious company of the Apostles, prophets, and martyrs, and for the pleasant fellowship of the faithful in all ages:

People: In the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. 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.)

Of The Father's Love Begotten

Prudentius

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years to see,
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

This is he whom heav'n taught singers sang of old with one accord,
 Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
 Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord,
 Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
 All dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
 Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring,
 Evermore and evermore!

Benediction²

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

May your hearts be filled with thanks for the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, experiencing all the ways you have been enriched in Christ, even as the testimony of Christ has been confirmed in you; May you wait well for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ; May God be faithful, by whom you were called into fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Song of Faith

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

All Your works declare Your glory; All creation joins to sing.
 Praise resounds as earth rejoices, In the birth of Christ, the King.
 Shepherds kneel before the Infant. Trumpets sound and anthems raise.
 As with joy our hearts are lifted, Joined in wonder, love, and praise.

This Week

Tuesday 6:30am

Men's Bible Study @ Java Jaay (2 Timothy)

Tuesday 9:30-11:00am

Ladies Bible Study via Zoom (Philippians)

Tuesday @ Noon

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

Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm

DPC Youth! (6th-8th Grade)

DPC Youth! (9th-12th Grade)

Wednesday 7:30pm

Praise Worship Band Practice

Friday 6:30am

Men's Bible Study @ Temple, Inc. (Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians)

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.

Church Family Reminders

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 1 Peter, Haggai, Ephesians, and Daniel. Sign up today by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org

Neighborhood Christian Center (NCC) Christmas Toy Store: Last day to sign up is tomorrow, November 30. We are collecting wish lists from the children who would have been signed up for the Toy Store. If you would like to sponsor the child(ren) of a family, go to <https://www.decaturncc.org/Holiday-outreach.html>.

NextGen Christmas Party: Ages 4 through 6th grade, Wednesday, December 16, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.! We will hear the story of Jesus' birth, make Christmas cards, have snacks, and more! Parents, take this opportunity as a Parents' Night Out or to do some Christmas shopping! Nursery for infants to age 3 will be provided. Masks are encouraged.

Online Giving: Our website has been updated to support giving on our mobile site. Simply tap the menu in the top right corner of the homepage and the Give button should appear next to the Events and Contact options.

Sunday Nursery & Childcare: We have re-launched our ministry of nursery & childcare for both Sunday morning worship services. Our ministry team will ensure all the wisest protocols for health and safety are practiced. If you have any questions, please contact Erika Ladner (256.394.8508, enodell@gmail.com)

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

FALL 2020

(Temporarily Suspended)

American Gospel: The gospel message of "Christ crucified" has always been offensive. We are exploring how the paths of post-modernism and progressive Christianity lead to a different gospel, a god created in our own image.

The Parlor Class: This class, led by Stuart Smith, meets in the parlor. We are studying the Nicene Creed, one of the earliest & most important expressions of our faith. We'd love for you to join us!

Sedona Class: Led by George Godwin, we are currently studying through the Book of Mark. 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 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 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
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
Youth Director
Worship Director
Office Administrator
NextGen Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator
Kitchen Coordinator
Church Librarian

Tommy Lee
Rick Stark
Nathan White
Stu Schieler
Tonya Roth
Lainee Oliver
Erika Ladner
Elena Suggs
Lucinda Beddow

tommy@decaturpca.org
rick@decaturpca.org
nathan@decaturpca.org
stu@decaturpca.org
office@decaturpca.org
rosslainee@gmail.com
enodell@gmail.com
jayandelena@gmail.com
dpclibrary@gmail.com

Service Times

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

10:45am Worship Service #2 (Mask-Optional Service)

DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

2306 MODAUS ROAD, SOUTHWEST / DECATUR, ALABAMA 35603

PHONE 256.351.6010 / FAX 256.351.6099 / www.decaturpca.org