



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old,
which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!

Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.

Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!

....Yet God my King is from of old,
working salvation in the midst of the earth.

Psalm 74

The Second Sunday of Advent — December 6, 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

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Houghton

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, Sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, Heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone!

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

People: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

Pastor: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

People: To establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore!

All: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 74

Hymn of Praise

Joy to the World

Watts

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.

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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 Second Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 40:1-11

Tim & Pamela Bolding (9am)

The Jared Cress Family (10:45am)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Responsive Confession of Sin

Pastor: Our Savior, you have promised to crush the head of Satan through the One who defeats our sin and lifts our heads with eternal hope.

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

Pastor: You came to give your light to the nations through the One who is the light of the world.

People: But our sin often makes enemies of those you call us to love and hides the light of your grace and truth from the watching world.

Pastor: You came to set captives free from bondage to sin and death through the One who conquers the world's evil powers.

People: But we often become slaves to pleasures and powers that reign in our minds and bodies.

Pastor: You came to rule us and give us refuge in you through the One who is the world's promised King.

All: But we are prone to seek refuge in the ways of the world rather than trusting your power to rescue and restore. Messiah, have mercy on us.

...Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin... Amen!

Hear the Good News!

1 John 4:9; 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

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English Carol

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

Fear not, then, said the angel, let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and fellowship, each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas may your heart be filled with grace.

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'nly 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.

Because of Your Tender Mercy

Moffitt/Smith

Because of Your tender mercy, The morning light from heaven is about to shine, Is about to shine.

Because of Your tender mercy, Though we have walked in darkness, You will end our night,
You will end our night.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the angels sing, Let earth receive the King of kings. So holy, so worthy, You come to us.

Because of Your tender mercy, To ev'ry generation You have shown Your love, You have shown Your love.

Because of Your tender mercy, You are forever faithful, reaching down to us, Reaching down to us.

Because of Your tender mercy. Because of Your tender mercy.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Jason Seale

Sermon

Series: WHO ARE WE?... Thoughts From Thessalonians

Pastor Tommy Lee

III. God's Church, Served By Faithful Leaders, Who Have Two Essential Responsibilities

1 Thessalonians 2:17 - 3:13 (page 986)

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 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.)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Reed

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Benediction²

Matthew 12:20-21

This is the good news... A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope.

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@decatuurpca.org.

Next Up! The next four books of Scripture that we'll be reading together via the Cultivate daily readings will be Ephesians, Daniel, 2 Peter, and Amos. Sign up today by emailing Tonya at tonya@decatuurpca.org

Youth Christmas Party: This Wed., Dec. 9, 6:30pm. Prize for best dressed, which is purposefully vague. "Best dressed" could mean funniest sweater, best Christmas tree impression, or renting a tux. We leave interpretation up to you. Masks are required, extra points for anyone who can incorporate that into their outfit! See Nathan w/ questions.

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 4 workers. If you'd like to participate, please bring 4 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. 16th.

NextGen Christmas Party: Ages 4 through 6th grade, Wednesday, December 16, 6 to 8 p.m.! We will hear the story of Jesus' birth, make Christmas cards, have snacks, and more! Dinner will be provided & masks are encouraged. Please RSVP to Laine at rosslaine@gmail.com or to Tonya and let us know if you will also be using the nursery.

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)

"The church needs to be the church. Focus on the means of grace—for a Presbyterian like me, that means corporate worship marked by faithful preaching and administration of the sacraments. Our strength is spiritual, not political. But we also need to be a true community. At a time when traditional means of community are in freefall, people still need to be loved and to belong. And if we are not a community, marked by a clear creed, vibrant worship, and a distinctive and loving way of life, we will be swept away in the cultural changes that are already upon us."

Carl Trueman

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

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Service Times

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

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

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