



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 world doesn't give peace, for it doesn't have any peace to give.
It fights for peace, it negotiates for peace, but there is no ultimate peace in the world.

Billy Graham

Christmas means that, through the grace of God and the incarnation, peace with God is available;
and if you make peace with God, then you can go out and make peace with everybody else.
And the more people who embrace the gospel and do that, the better off the world is. Christmas,
therefore, means the increase of peace—both with God and between people—across the face of the world.

Timothy Keller

God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.

C.S. Lewis

When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars.

Psalm 75

The Third Sunday of Advent — December 13, 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

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wisemen from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger; In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger, Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother. And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever,
His power and glory ever more proclaim! His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Zechariah 2:10

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 75

Hymn of Praise

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

McDonald

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 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.

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O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

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

O come thou Key of David come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

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

The Reading for the Third Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-10

The John Elder Family (9am)

Mike & Leslie Sexton (10:45am)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Responsive Confession of Sin

Pastor: Almighty and merciful Father, you sent your son as light into the world to banish the darkness of sin and death.

People: Forgive us for continuing to prefer the dark ways of our self-centeredness and self-sufficiency!

Pastor: You sent your son to guide our feet into the path of peace.

People: Pardon us for proudly persisting in our warring and conflicting ways with you and others.

Pastor: You sent your prophet to be a voice crying out.

People: Forgive us for blushing to speak about our Savior! Humble us and embolden us so that we might serve you without fear.

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

Hear the Good News!

1 John 5:11; John 1:14; Matthew 1:21; John 1:16

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.... The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.... She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

For all who have turned from sin in sorrow and look to God for mercy, this is God's gift. In Jesus Christ, God loves you, God forgives you, God accepts you, and God rejoices over you as beloved daughters and sons.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Wesley

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing on His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth,
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Moultrie

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.

As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:

"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

A sign shall be given, a virgin will conceive, A human baby bearing undiminished Deity.
The glory of the nations, a light for all to see; And hope for all who will embrace His warm reality.

Immanuel, Our God is with us. And if God is with us, who could stand against us? Our God is with us, Immanuel.

You shall be my people, I will be your God, Said He who did not spare His Son, but gave Him for us all.
On earth there is no power, there is no depth or height, Could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.

For all those who live in the shadow of death, A glorious light has dawned.

For all those who stumble in the darkness, Behold, your light has come.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Jason Seale

...Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sermon

Series: WHO ARE WE?... Thoughts From Thessalonians
IV. God's Church, Growing And Desiring To Please God
1 Thessalonians 4:1-18 (page 987)

Pastor Tommy Lee

We Respond

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.

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

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

Praetorius

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.

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.

Benediction²

Isaiah 60:1

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.... *this is the good news!*

Song of Faith

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Van Dyke

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 (1 Samuel)
(Starts back in January)

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 Ephesians, Daniel, 2 Peter, and Amos. Sign up today by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org

Help Needed: There's a family moving to Moulton on December 16 who plans to be a part of our fellowship at DPC. They're a dear family with a special needs daughter, and they could use some help with light cleaning and also trailer help, moving a lawnmower from a storage unit to their home. If you can help, please see Tommy.

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, This Wed., 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 Lainea at rosslainea@gmail.com or to Tonya and let us know if you will also be using the nursery.

Our Christmas Eve Service: will be pre-recorded and posted on the website (and emailed out) at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Enjoy worshipping at home this year, and—if you are comfortable doing so—consider inviting other members of the church family over to enjoy it with you. Candles are available in the foyer and gathering room, if you would like to take them home for use.

Baby Shower: There will be a baby shower for Jacqueline Marthaler on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 2:30 pm at DPC in the gathering room. They are having a baby boy. Help us encourage them as they begin this new stage of life. Jacqueline is registered at Amazon and Target.

Congregational Meeting: A congregational meeting will be held immediately after both worship services on Sunday, January 24, to vote on the Session's recommended slate of your officer nominees: For re-appointment to the Session after sabbaticals: **Elders Mike McMahan** and **Greg Smith**. For election to the office of ruling elder: **Connor Ross** and **Allen Schmidt**. For re-appointment to the Diaconate after the expiration of three-year terms: **Deacons Scott Missildine, Sam Thompson, Michael Vinson, and David Whitcomb**. For election to the office of deacon: **Patrick Pettus** and **Andy Thompson**. See Tommy or Rick with any questions.

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)

"I think I need in all integrity to add an appendix, for those of us who are single and have therefore been denied the only God-given context for sexual love. What about them?

"Well, to begin with we must accept this teaching of God, however hard it may seem, as God's good purpose for us and society. The only God-given context for sexual love is marriage. And we will not become a bundle of frustrations and inhibitions and neuroses if we gladly accept this standard; we will only become so if we rebel against it.

"We need to say to one another that it is perfectly possible for our sexual energy to be redirected both into affectionate relationships with many people and into loving service for others. There are a multitude of Christian single men and women who have been able to testify that alongside a natural human loneliness and sometimes acute pain, there can be immense and joyful fulfillment in the loving joyful service of God and our fellow human beings. You see, God has given sex this one and only context: marriage. That's the first thing Paul teaches, uninhibitedly."

John Stott

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
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Service Times

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

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

DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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