



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 Incarnation of Jesus Christ pointedly preaches our inescapable need
for radical, personal, and moral rescue and forgiveness.

Paul David Tripp

He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede;
then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him.

Isaiah 59:16

The Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 20, 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

Glory In The Highest

Tomlin

The heav'nly host proclaim Your birth, "Glory to God, and praise be on the earth!"
Your name is near, Emmanuel, "God with us here, God pleased with us to dwell."

Glory in the highest, glory in the highest, glory in the highest

Apart from You there is no God, light of the world, the bright and morning star
Your name will shine for all to see, You are the one, You are my glory

And no one else could ever compare to You, Lord, All the earth together declares.....

Glory in the highest, glory in the highest Glory in the highest to You, Lord, to You, Lord

All the earth will sing Your praise, the moon and stars, the sun and rain

Every nation will proclaim You are God and You will reign

Glory, glory Hallelujah, glory, glory to You, Lord. Glory, glory Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Isaiah 25:9

Pastor: It will be said on that day, Behold this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

People: 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 76

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

The Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Gil & Jill Cook (9am)

Gage & Rachel Crowder (10:45am)

Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.” But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.... And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

Holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before You and one another our sin: prone to evil and slothful in good; wandering from Your ways, wasting Your gifts, and forgetting Your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for how we have displeased You. Teach us to hate our errors; cleanse us from our secret savors; forgive our idolatry, all for the sake of Your Son. Send Your purifying grace into our hearts that we may live in Your light and walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord
...Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin... Amen!

Assurance of Pardon

Matthew 1:25

...and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

O Come All Ye Faithful

Chapman

Come let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him (2x)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him.

Yea, Lord we bless Thee, born for our salvation: Oh, Jesus forever be Thy name adored.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. (2x)

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him. (4x)

Away in a Manger

Anonymous

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay, Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

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".

Sermon

God Behind The Christmas Nativity
Matthew 1:18-25 (page 807)

Pastor Rick Stark

We Respond By Confessing Our Faith²

We confess the mystery and wonder
of God made flesh
and rejoice in our great salvation
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With the Father and the Holy Spirit,
the Son created all things,
sustains all things,
and makes all things new.
Truly God,
He became truly man,
two natures in one person.

He was born of the Virgin Mary
and lived among us.
Crucified, dead, and buried,
He rose on the third day,
ascended to heaven,
and will come again
in glory and judgment.

For us,
He kept the Law,
atoned for sin,
and satisfied God's wrath.
He took our filthy rags
and gave us
His righteous robe.

He is our Prophet, Priest, and King,
building His church,
interceding for us,
and reigning over all things.

Jesus Christ is Lord;
we praise His holy Name forever.

² The Ligonier Statement on Christology

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.)

What Child is This

Traditional

What child is this, Who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Benediction³

adapted from Dale Ralph Davis

Now may the God of Christmas be your exceeding joy, Christ your unfailing hope, and the Spirit your unfailing comforter, in all your worship and work and troubles until Jesus comes. Amen

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.

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.

Church Family Reminders

The DPC Office will be closed Thursday & Friday, December 24 & 25, and Thursday & Friday, December 31 & January 1.

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

DPC Christmas Eve Service (Virtual Lessons & Carols): Beloved DPC Family, we are so excited to be able to share our virtual Lessons and Carols with you! Candles are available at the church to take home and use. Let's all join together to rejoice at what the Lord has done for us! The link will be shared and if possible, join together at 5 pm to sing praises to the newborn king from the comfort of your home. This service will be a special blessing as we are able to connect with some of our DPC family members who are unable to join us in person right now. You won't want to miss it! Let's ring in the reason for Advent "together" at 5 pm on Christmas Eve!

Baby Shower: All ladies are invited to a baby shower for Jacqueline Marthaler on Sunday, January 10 BETWEEN the two worship services in the Parlor. Come for a quick visit/gift drop off between the 2 services and enjoy some to go refreshments as we help her celebrate her first baby. She is expecting a boy and is registered at Amazon and Target.

Stronghold Conference: Please visit strongholdconference.com for more information, Huntsville, January 17 & 18. The theme is Biblical Masculinity, but this is not just a conference for men, as explained in the FAQ's portion of the website. See Tommy with any questions.

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)

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
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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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