



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

Now let us all with gladsome cheer
go with the shepherds and draw near
to see the precious gift of God,
who hath his own dear Son bestowed.

Welcome to earth, thou noble guest,
through whom the sinful world is blest!
In my distress thou com'st to me;
what thanks shall I return to thee?

Martin Luther

The Lord's Day — December 27, 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

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Neale

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hast opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Revelation 1:7a,8; 21:3

Pastor: Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.

People: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Pastor: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

All: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 77

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Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.
Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.
Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.
All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Ever more your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Reading of the Word: *Zechariah's Prophecy***Luke 1:67-79**

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

O Lord, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to the needs of the poor and downtrodden, the lonely and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice as we should. Nor have we cared about those who are without Christ and without hope in this world. We have been silent when we could have spoken and have lacked boldness in our witness. Lord, forgive us for our offenses. And grant that by the power of your Spirit we might live in light of your coming again ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Hear the Good News!

Hebrews 9:27-28

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Traditional

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before Your grace, then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen."

Sing We Now of Christmas

Traditional

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here!
Listen to our praises to the Babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

Shepherds on a hillside heard the angels sing:
Glory, honor, praises to the infant King.

In the town they found Him; Son of Mary mild.
Sleeping in a manger was the Holy Child.

Wise Men sought and found Him, treasures did they bring;
Bowling down they worshiped Christ, the King of kings.

Birthday Of A King

Neidlinger

In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day
And the sky was bright, with a holy light, o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Alleluia, O how the angels sang!
Alleluia, How it rang!
And the sky was bright, with a holy light
'Twas the birthday of a King.

'Twas a humble birthplace, but Oh! How much God gave to us that day!
From the manger bed what a path has led, what a perfect holy way.

Sermon

**Series: WHO ARE WE?... Thoughts From Thessalonians
V. God's Church, Caring For One Another Well
1 Thessalonians 5:1-28 (page 986)**

Pastor Tommy Lee

We Respond

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Tate

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around, and glory shone around.

Fear not, said he for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind,
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, To you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.

To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
The Savior, Who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign.

All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth, from heaven to men, Begin and never cease, begin and never cease!

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.)

One Small Child

Meece

One small Child in a land of a thousand; One small dream of a Savior tonight,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight; One small city of life.

One king bringing his gold and riches, One King ruling and army of might.
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight, One King bringing us life.

See the Shepherds kneeling before Him; See the kings on bended knee.

See His mother praising His Father; See the Blessed Infant sleep.

One small light from the flame of a candle, One small light from a city of might,
One small light from the stars in the endless night, One small light from a face.

One small Child in a land of a thousand, One small dream in a people of might,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight, One small Savior of life.

Benediction²

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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.

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

A heartfelt thank you from Tommy, Rick, Nathan, Tonya, & Stu

We are very blessed to serve such a warm and generous church family! Thank you so much for your loving and lavish gifts! The Lord has been so gracious to allow us to call DPC our home church and we are tremendously grateful to serve Emmanuel here! Thank you for your prayers and tangible encouragement during this Christmas season! May God be pleased as we continue to grow in Him together in the new year!

The DPC Office will be closed this 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 2 Peter, Amos, Philipians, and Leviticus. Sign up today by emailing Tonya at tonya@decaturpca.org

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.

NextGen Wednesday Nights: start back January 13. We are excited to start our weekly Wednesday night activities for elementary aged children beginning January 13! We will have more information soon, but mark your calendars!

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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