



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

Isaiah 55 is inviting us to believe the unbelievable, to refute our natural, intuitive ways of thinking, so enmeshed in scorekeeping and law-ishness... inviting us to calm down and let God love us. Have compassion on us. Abundantly pardon us. His ways are not our ways. We sin. But He loves sinners... How can we possibly stiff-arm this?

Dane C. Ortland

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Jeremiah 31:3

The Lord's Day — September 12, 2021

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus! Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

Song of Assembly¹

Before the Throne of God Above

Bancroft & Cook

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is "Love," who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart. No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied to look on him and pardon me. To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God. With Christ, my Savior and my God.

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship:

Psalm 114:7-8

Pastor: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

People: who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 114

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Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
 He whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for His own abode
 On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
 With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

Savior if of Zion's city, I, through grace, a member am
 Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Thy Name
 Fading is the worldling's pleasure, all his boasted pomp and show
 Solid joys and lasting treasure, none but Zion's children know.

Reading of the Word: *Believing the unbelievable!*

Isaiah 55:1-13

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

O King of the Unbelievable and Glorious, we confess that our faith has been fickle, our praise often faint, and our performance treasonous. For we have surrendered to the enemy by our secret and our public sins. For our treason You died, Lord Jesus. For our restoration, You rose again. Draw us closer to You, that our eyes may catch the vision of You, and our hearts, the wonder of Your grace. By the Holy Spirit's continuing discipline, let us be loyal and loving servants of the King. Praise be to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

The Gospel 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

Come Ye Sinners

Smith

Come ye sinners, poor and wretched, weak and wounded, sick and sore.

Jesus, ready, stands to save you, full of pity joined with power.

He is able, He is able; He is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come and welcome; God's free bounty glorify:

True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh.

Without money, without money, Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and broken by the fall.

If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.

Not the righteous, not the righteous; sinners Jesus came to call.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended; pleads the merit of His blood.

Venture on Him; venture wholly, let no other trust intrude.

None but Jesus, none but Jesus can do helpless sinners good.

All I Have Is Christ

Kauffman

I once was lost in darkest night, Yet thought I knew the way

The sin that promised joy and life, Had led me to the grave

I had no hope that You would own, A rebel to Your will

And if You had not loved me first, I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race, Indifferent to the cost

You looked upon my helpless state, And led me to the cross

And I beheld God's love displayed, You suffered in my place

You bore the wrath reserved for me, Now all I know is grace

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ, Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone, And live so all might see

The strength to follow Your commands, Could never come from me

O Father, use my ransomed life, In any way You choose

And let my song forever be, My only boast is You

Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)

Rice

Weak and wounded sinner, lost and left to die; O raise your head, for Love is passing by.

Come to Jesus, come to Jesus, come to Jesus and live!

Now your burden's lifted and carried far away; And precious blood has washed away the stain.

So sing to Jesus, sing to Jesus, sing to Jesus and live!

Like a newborn baby, don't be afraid to crawl; Remember when you walk, sometimes we fall.

So fall on Jesus, fall on Jesus, fall on Jesus and live!

Sometimes the way is lonely, and steep and filled with pain; So if your sky is dark and pours the rain,

Then cry to Jesus, cry to Jesus, cry to Jesus and live!

And when the love spills over, and music fills the night, And when you can't contain your joy inside;
Then dance for Jesus, dance for Jesus, dance for Jesus and live!
And with your final heartbeat kiss the world goodbye; Then go in peace, and laugh on Glory's side.
And fly to Jesus, fly to Jesus, fly to Jesus and live! (Repeat)

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Mike McMahan

...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

Rev. Vinnie Athey

The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1-20 (page 839)

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 let the pastor know at the table. The silver trays at the back of the table contain wine. The gold trays at the front of the table contain juice. Please hold the elements until all have been served so that we may partake together.)

Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right

Rodigast

Whate'er my God ordains is right, His Holy will abideth
I will be still whate'er He doth, and follow where He guideth.
He is my God, though dark my road, He holds me that I shall not fall:
And so to Him I leave it all. He holds me that I shall not fall.

Whate'er my God ordains is right, He never will deceive me
He leads me by the proper path, I know He will not leave me.
I take, content, what He hath sent, His hand can turn my griefs away,
And patiently I wait His day. His hand can turn my griefs away.

Whate'er my God ordains is right, though now this cup I'm drinking
May bitter seem to my faint heart, I take it all unshrinking.
My God is true, each morn anew, sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart,
And pain and sorrow shall depart. sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart.

Whate'er my God ordains is right, here shall my stand be taken
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, yet am I not forsaken.
My Father's care is round me there, He holds me that I shall not fall
And so to Him I leave it all. He holds me that I shall not fall.

Benediction²

adapted from 2 Peter 3:18

May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, the unbelievable become more believable, that to Him alone be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Song of Faith

Worthy Is the Lamb

Zschech

Worthy is the Lamb seated on the throne.
Crown You now with many crowns You reign victorious!
High and lifted up Jesus, Son of God.
Sent from Heaven, crucified...worthy is the Lamb.

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

Vinnie is the RUF Campus Minister at UAH. A native of Northern Virginia and graduate of Virginia Tech (2010), he served as RUF intern at the University of Florida. It was at UF that he met his wife Molly, who was an RUF intern at Florida State. They married (2014) and moved to Charlotte, NC where Vinnie earned his M.Div. from RTS. The Atheys have been serving at RUF UAH since 2017. Vinnie enjoys trail running, music, and every DC professional sports team. Molly is an avid horticulturist and continues to expand her garden. The Atheys have 2 children, Rhys and Hazel!

September Guest Preachers: Rev. Vinney Athey (12th), Rev. Jim Simoneau (19), Rev. Michael Alsup (26th)

Tuesday Men's Bible Study: Adult men are invited as we have resumed the Tuesday morning Bible Study, 6:30a.m. - 7:30a.m., at Java Jaay Cafe (1713 6th Ave SE). We will continue in our study of the Book of Hebrews led by a rotation of skilled teachers.

NOON Men's Bible Study: Join us at noon on Tuesdays, as we have restarted our men's Bible study. Come enjoy a time of fellowship and then we study the book of 1st Samuel. This is a great time to jump in with a great group of guy's studying God's word together. We meet at noon at Kent Quinn's office at 1323 Stratford Road SE.

Soli Deo Gloria: DPC youth girls choir, will rehearse Wednesday nights @ 5 pm in the choir room. Come sing His praises with us and then enjoy dinner and youth! Hope to see you there!

NextGen Wednesday Night Activities: have begun! From 6-6:30 p.m. children go to choirs. Ages 4-7 in "Kids of the King" choir w/Teresa Quinn & Mary Chism in 6-7yo room. Ages 8-11 in "Dare to Declare" choir w/Lory Schieler & Debbie Smith in 10-11yo room. At 6:30, we begin NextGen lessons & activities in those same classrooms. We then end and are ready for parents to pick up kids at 7:30 p.m.

Midweek Youth Studies: Wednesday nights, the high schoolers are having a series on evangelism taught by Nathan White called "To Gather" and the middle schoolers are having a series on discipleship, specifically within the context of the local church, called "To Grow" taught by Austin Latter!

Wednesday Open Door Study: Adult men and women who don't have a place to connect on Wednesday nights (choir, Life Groups, Youth, etc...) are invited to the Open Door Bible Study, 6:20pm - 7:15pm in the Gathering Area of DPC. Along with fellowship & prayer, Rick Stark is leading a study in Galatians.

Midweek College Study: College-aged young adults are invited to a midweek study every Thursday night at 6:00 at Nathan and Rachael White's house (2312 Dogwood Lane SE). We are going through R.C. Sproul's *Truths We Confess*. For more information, you can email Nathan at nathan@decaturpca.org or call/text him at (256) 280-7912.

Women's Bible Study: Note! Please read the first two chapters of the study guide before our first meeting! Beginning this Tuesday, September 14th, 10-11:30 am., in the Sedona room at DPC, studying the book of James, guided by *James: A 12-Week Study*, by Greg Gilbert. Study books are available in the Book Nook for \$5.00. Child care is provided. For questions, please email Teresa Quinn, teresaquinn703@gmail.com, or text 256-565-0897.

Women's Ministry Fall Kick-Off Party: Ladies, you are all invited to kick off the new season of women's ministry with a fun evening of food and fellowship! Next Sunday, September 19, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner will be catered at this event, so we ask that you RSVP to Allison Seale (678)431-0744 or Elena Suggs (256)221-6785.

A New Monday Night Women's Bible Study: beginning September 20th, on Monday nights, 6:30-8 pm! Meeting at Amy Nelson's home, 2522 Sherwood Dr., studying the book of James. Study guides available in the Book Nook for \$5. Questions? Contact Teresa Quinn, 256-565-0897. Guests are welcome!

Sermon Outline Notes: for adults and children are available on the back table.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

FALL 2021

9:30 am

Jonah: Come join us as we study the book of Jonah, in the classroom across the hall from the church offices. We are using a book called "*Salvation through Judgment and Mercy*" which leads us thru the study of one man who thru painful experience, came to discover the true character of God. Visitors are always welcome!

Sedona Class: A study of 1 Peter: A Living Hope Amidst Life's Great Challenges. Using material written by Dr. Frank Barker, we will unwrap practical ways Peter's message can guide us through our dilemmas and day-to-day living. The class meets in the classroom down the back hallway from the sanctuary, across from the choir room. Guests are always welcome!

Session

Jeff Keith
Mike McMahan
Kent Quinn
Brian Rodgers
Connor Ross
Allen Schmidt

Jason Seale
Greg Smith
Jay Suggs
Blake Temple
Chip Walraven

Diaconate

Wade Littrell
Bill Nelson
Scott Missildine
Andy Thompson
Sam Thompson
David Whitcomb

Church Staff

Associate Pastor
Assistant Pastor
Worship Director
Office Administrator
NextGen Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator
Kitchen Coordinator
Church Librarian

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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