



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

As the early church fathers delighted in saying,  
Christ took what was ours so that we might receive what was His.

Sinclair Ferguson

The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.  
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

# The Lord's Day — December 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 Assembly<sup>1</sup>

### Go, Tell It On The Mountain

Work/Taylor

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere,*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus is born*

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere,*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born*

Shepherds watching over their flocks by night,

Out of the darkness there shone a heavenly light

Feared and they trembled when high above the earth,

Sang out this angel chorus telling of the Savior's birth

Yes I am a sinner struggle both night and day,

The Lord came to save me and He showed me the way

Down in a manger the humble child was born,

And God sent us salvation on that Christmas morn

## Welcome and Announcements

## Report of the Living Church

Skip Thompson, Pastor Search Committee

## Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 145:10

Pastor: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

People: And all your saints shall bless you!

## Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 126

## 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.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> All songs used by permission or covered under CCLI license # 391165.

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 Third Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 40:1-11**

The Mike Bailey Family

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!**

**Confession of Sin**

**From Psalm 51**

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...***  
**Amen!**

**The Gospel Pardon**

**Ezekiel 34:15; Ezekiel 36:25-27**

"I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down," declares the Lord God... 'I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.'"

## Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

### A Light Has Dawned

Light

A light has dawned, a King has come, to redeem every heart and soul,  
Born unto us, Emmanuel, the Savior of the world. Let us adore and praise His name.

Angels rejoice and shepherds bow, at the sight of the holy Child,  
Men from afar searching to find the Savior of the world. Let us adore and praise His name.

*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna, let us sing. Hosanna in the highest, we give glory to the King. Glory to the King.*

You are the Christ, the Son of God, and the nations will rally to You.  
Let every heart come recognize the Savior of the world. Let us adore and praise His name.

### On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Wadding

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."

### 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.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Jay Suggs

...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

Pastor Rick Stark

### Advent Series: III. Through A Door Called Joy

Luke 2:8-20 (page 857)

## We Respond By Receiving a New Member

### The Lord Adds to His Church

Benji Martin

To read more about our new member, see page 6.

### The Membership Vows (PCA Book of Church Order §57-5)

*Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope except through His sovereign mercy?*

*Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?*

*Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as become followers of Christ?*

*Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your abilities?*

*Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?*

## Prayer for Benji

Elder Blake Temple

## 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.)*

### 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.

## **Benediction<sup>2</sup>**

**Revelation 3:20; John 1:14, 16**

May during this Advent season you hear His knocking; and know the eternal Word become flesh; and perceive his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father; and receive from His fullness, grace upon grace. Amen.

## **Song of Faith**

### **Behold Him**

Jesus, Son of God, Messiah

The Lamb, the roaring Lion

Oh, be still and behold Him.

## **This Week**

### **Monday 6:30pm**

Women's Bible Study @ Nelson home (*Will resume in January*)

### **Tuesday 6:30am**

Men's Bible Study @ Java Jaay (Hebrews)

### **Tuesday 10:00-11:30am**

Women's Bible Study @ DPC (*Will resume in January*)

### **Tuesday @ Noon**

Men's Bible Study @ Kent's Office (1 Samuel)

### **Wednesday 1:00pm** (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)

Singled Out for Christ

### **Wednesday 5:00pm**

Youth Choir / Soli Deo Gloria

### **Wednesday 5:30pm**

Church Family Meal

### **Wednesday 6:00-6:30pm**

Kids Choirs:

4 Year Old - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade / Kids of the King

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade / Dare 2 Declare

### **Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm**

DPC Youth! (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

### **Wednesday 6:15-7:30pm**

Worship Choir Practice

### **Wednesday 6:15-7:15pm**

Open Door Study (Galatians)

### **Wednesday 6:15-7:30pm**

Life Groups

### **Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm**

4 Year Olds - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade / Kid's Quest

### **Wednesday 7:30pm**

Praise Worship Band Practice

### **Thursday 6:00pm**

College Student Study @ White's home (Truths We Confess)

### **Friday 6:30am**

Men's Bible Study @ Temple, Inc. (1 Peter)

<sup>2</sup> 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

**Upcoming Guest Preachers:** Rick Stark (12/19); Nathan White (12/24, 12/26).

**Returning to Pre-Covid Communion Participation:** Our historical practice of observing the Lord's Table at DPC was that members were served the elements in their seats, row by row, during worship. The Session of Elders has decided that it is time to return to this practice beginning Sunday, December 19th. The elements will be served from both the front of the sanctuary to the back as well as from the back to the front.

**Advent Sermon Series: "Through A Door Called..."** The traditional Advent Wreath unfolds the story of the "coming" of the Son of God into our world and to us. During the 4 Sundays of Advent, we'll hear the message of each candle and consider the "door" (Rev.3:20) by which Jesus comes to us: the Prophets' Door Called Hope, Bethlehem's Door Called Faith, the Shepherds' Door Called Joy, and the Angels' Door Called Peace.

**Worship Aids for Children & Families:** We have a few different resources available in the back of the sanctuary to help you "parent in the pew." We are overjoyed to have children in the sanctuary with us for worship and desire to serve those of you with young children in any way we can. If you have any questions, please ask Lainee Oliver (rosslaine@gmail.com).

**Annual Christmas Cantata & Reception:** Join us today for "The Carols of Christmas," from 5:00 - 6:00pm. Immediately following there will be a delicious reception to honor the Cantata and to celebrate the Christmas season.

**Cupcakes for Camp:** Boxes of six homemade vanilla cupcakes with buttercream icing may be ordered now and during the month of December. Each box costs \$12, with 100% going to Hope Heals Camp, a Christian ministry for disabled children, adults and families. Cupcake boxes make perfect gifts for neighbors and friends! Pick up is at DPC on Sundays or delivered to your home. Contact Kim Ingram: (256)654-0162, kimbo.ingram@charter.net

**Baby Shower:** Join us for a baby shower for Kayla McGough next Sunday, December 19 at 2:00 pm at the Stark's home (3773 S. Woodtrail Rd. SW). Help us encourage them as they begin this new stage of life. Kayla is registered at Target. Contact Hope Schmidt or Debbie Smith for more information.

**Smith/Schmidt/Littrell Shepherding Group:** You are invited to a dinner next Sunday, December 19 at 6:00pm, at the Littrell home (25588 N Street, Mooresville) Please join us and bring a side dish or dessert to share. Questions? Contact Debbie Smith, Hope Schmidt, or Leigh Littrell.

**DPC Women's Ministry:** Save the date for our FREEDOM IN CHRIST WOMENS RETREAT at Smith Lake with Guest Speaker Julie Sparkman. February 4th & 5th, 2022. All women ages 21 & up are invited. Cost is \$35 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, guest speaker, and an overnight stay. Please RSVP by January 23, 2022 to reserve your spot. Forms are located on the foyer table. More details coming soon!

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

### Introduction of New Member

**Benji Martin** grew up in Decatur and was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church through high school. He has been visiting DPC since this summer after meeting John Chambers in their EMT class. He has not only regularly attended worship on Sunday mornings, but also the Thursday night college study. He has enjoyed getting to be part of the community here and looks forward to officially joining this congregation!

# ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

FALL 2021

9:30 am

**Zechariah:** Come join us as we study the book of Zechariah, in the classroom across the hall from the church offices. The book of Zechariah addresses God's people who are discouraged and in need of renewal. In doing so, it provides a captivating vision of God and his work in the world, leading us into a deeper longing for God and the coming of his kingdom, which finds its realization in Christ. Please join us in this study.

**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  
Media Coordinator

Rick Stark  
Nathan White  
Stu Schieler  
Tonya Roth  
Lainee Oliver  
Allison Seale  
Elena Suggs  
Leah Carpenter

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[leahccarpenter@gmail.com](mailto:leahccarpenter@gmail.com)

## Service Times

9:30am      Sunday School  
10:45am      Worship

DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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