



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

Peace is transcendent... the shalom for which every Jew yearned. It goes beyond what Martin Luther called carnal peace, the peace offered by the false prophets. It is not the cowardly peace won by appeasement.

It is a peace wrought by permanent victory.

R. C. Sproul

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives do I give unto you.

John 14:27

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

The Lord's Day — December 19, 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

Behold Him

Baloche

He who was before there was light, walked across the pages of time,
He who made every living thing, behold Him.

He who heard humanity's cry, left His throne to wake as a child,
He became like the least of us, behold Him.

Jesus, Son of God, Messiah, The Lamb, the roaring Lion, oh, be still and behold Him.

He who dined with sinners and saints, healed the blind, the lost and the lame,
even now He is in our midst, behold Him.

He who chose a criminal's end, paid with blood to settle our debt,
buried death as He rose to life, behold Him.

Jesus, Son of God, Messiah, The Lamb, the roaring Lion, oh, be still and behold Him.

Jesus, Alpha and Omega, Our God, the Risen Savior, oh, be still and behold Him.

Holy, holy, holy Is the Lord God Almighty;
Worthy, worthy, worthy to receive all praise.

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Romans 11:33-36

Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

People: For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?

All: For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

based on Psalm 127

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.

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The Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The Guillermo Gonzalez Family

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

From Psalm 51

Almighty Immanuel, your coming to dwell with us is our daily wonder; but in such nearness grant that we remember how often we push you away. We confess that the song of Your rescue is often muted by the enemy of our soul, even our own flesh. In what we have done and failed to do, all against Your holy will, have mercy upon us. May Your work, rescuing us from our sins, restore us and become again our song and strength; and in such hope poured out into our hearts, grant that we learn to humbly present ourselves as a living sacrifice of worship ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

The Gospel Pardon

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

We Three Kings

Hopkins

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising all men raising, worship Him, God on high.
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom:
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! Sounds thru the earth and skies.

Midnight Clear (Love Song)

Myrin/Tomlin/Cash

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth good will to men from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavn'ly music floats o'er all the weary world:
And man at war with man hears not the love song which they bring,
O hush the noise and cease the strife and hear the angels sing.
Glory to God in the highest, glory to God evermore. Good news, great joy for all.
Melody breaks through the silence, Christ the Savior is born.
Jesus, the love song of God. (Chorus 2x)
Jesus, the love song of God.

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.

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.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Jay Suggs

Sermon

Pastor Rick Stark

Advent Series: IV. Through A Door Called Peace
Luke 2:13-14 (page 857)

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Alice Mae White
Covenant Child of Nathan & Rachael White

Solemn Vows - Parents

Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?

Do you now present this child to be baptized into the Christian Faith, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with her and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy faith, and that you will strive, by all means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Solemn Vows - Congregation

Do you, members of this congregation and also members of the Body of Christ outside of this local church, undertake this responsibility - assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Solemn Words to the Children

Little child, Jesus Christ has come, he has fought, he has suffered. He has entered into the shadows of Gethsemane and the terrors of Calvary; he has uttered the cry "It is finished!" He has risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, and there he intercedes for his church. Today we have pledged to teach you all of these things, and our prayer for you is that you will always mature and grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our great Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Alice

Elder Mike McMahan

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.)

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.

Benediction²

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.

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

Upcoming Guest Preachers: Nathan White (12/24, 12/26); Rev. Dieter Paulson (1/2)

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 today, 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.

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 today 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 today, 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.

College Christmas Party: Our weekly college study will have a Christmas party on Thursday, December 23rd, beginning at 6:00 at Nathan and Rachael White's house (2312 Dogwood Lane SE Decatur, AL, 35601). All college aged young adults are welcome to attend! We hope to see you there!

Christmas Eve Service: Our Christmas Eve service will be this Friday, December 24th, at 5:00 PM. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ!

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.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

WINTER 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
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Service Times

9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship

DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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