



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

Luke's Gospel records [t]he angel Gabriel had appeared to Zechariah in the temple, but Zechariah didn't believe the angel. So, out of the temple came a priest who could not speak.

Nine months later, at the circumcision and naming of his son, Zechariah asked for a tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' A name which literally means 'graced by God.' Immediately Zechariah's mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed. He could speak again. So what were the first words out of his mouth? A blessing. The Benedictus. Zechariah gave a blessing, but a blessing unlike those pronounced every day at the Temple.

His was a blessing of thanksgiving to the Lord God for his past promises to save his people. And it was a prophetic blessing about the salvation the Lord God was about to accomplish in fulfillment of his Old Testament promises. It was a blessing, thanksgiving, homily, and hymn all rolled into one.

James Laurence

The Lord's Day — December 4, 2022

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

Report of the Living Church

Kent Quinn, World Missions

Responsive Call to Worship

Hosea 6:1-3

Pastor: Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us;

Congregation: he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

Pastor: After two days he will revive us;

Congregation: on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

Pastor: Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;

Congregation: his going out is sure as the dawn.

All: he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

Hymn of Praise

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

McDonald

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come Thou Rod of Jesse, free, Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Reading for the Second Sunday of Advent: Micah 5:2-5a

The Sam Thompson Family

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

adapted from *The Valley of Vision*

O Thou Most High... I am nothing compared with Thee, but Thou has made me what I am, and placed me where I am... all by design. But the crown has fallen from my head: I have sinned; I am alien to Thee;... an enemy to Thy law. Yet, in my lostness Thou has laid help on the Mighty One, my Umpire and Mediator, whose blood is my peace, whose righteousness is my strength, whose condemnation is my freedom, whose Spirit is my power, whose heaven in my heritage. Grant that I may feel more the strength of Thy grace in subduing my sin, ...supporting me under trials, and exercising in me a conscience void of offences before Thee and others ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Wesley

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing on His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth,

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Immanuel

Card

A sign shall be given, a virgin will conceive, A human baby bearing undiminished Deity.
The glory of the nations, a light for all to see; And hope for all who will embrace His warm reality.

Immanuel, Our God is with us. And if God is with us, who could stand against us? Our God is with us, Immanuel.

You shall be my people, I will be your God, Said He who did not spare His Son, but gave Him for us all.
On earth there is no power, there is no depth or height, Could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.

For all those who live in the shadow of death, A glorious light has dawned.

For all those who stumble in the darkness, Behold, your light has come.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Brooks

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:

Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Kent Quinn

(Immediately following this prayer, 4-5 year olds are invited, but not required, to attend Teach me to Worship. They will meet their teachers in the back of the sanctuary and from there, will follow them to the classroom. They will return to sit on the back row to see Communion and hear the Benediction. Parents can pick them up there at the conclusion of the service.)

Singing to the Lord

Manger Carol Medley

Worship Choir

(From our "Sing Noel" Christmas Cantata)

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon

Pastor Scott Phillips

Can't Wait

Luke 1:67-79 (page 856)

We Respond By Receiving New Members

The Lord Adds to His Church

Christian and Kathryn Smith (Maggie, Anne Cable)

Silas McNeill (Michael)

Wesley and Lauren Woolf (Micah, Isabella)

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?

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Michael Rowen McNeill

Covenant Child of Silas McNeill

Margaret Allen Smith, and Anne Cable Smith

Covenant Children of Christian and Kathryn Smith

Micah James Woolf, and Isabella Josie Woolf

Covenant Children of Wes & Lauren Woolf

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 his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his 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 him a godly example, that you will pray with him and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy faith, and that you will strive, by all means of God's appointment, to bring him 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 Child

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 the New Members

Elder Connor Ross

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 signal the pastor to let him know. In each tray of drink, the clear communion cups contain juice and the purple contain wine. Please hold the elements until all have been served so that we may partake together.)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior, when half-spent was the night.
The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him, as angel heralds said.
This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispers with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.
O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and to the endless day.

Benediction²

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you..

Song of Faith

Let There Be Light

Let there be light, let it shine bright,
Piercing the darkness with dazzling white.
Hope for the hopeless was born on that night
When God sent His Son and said let there be light.

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

The Perfect Christmas Gift! Dominican Republic Mission Trip June 7-13, 2022, \$750 plus plane ticket. Email Carol Godwin carolg@pclnet.net if interested!

Our Pictorial Church Directory is Online! We need *every family* to create a Login and upload a picture. Please go to go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> and follow the prompts under “First time signing in? Create Login”. Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in and edit your family profile. You won’t be able to see your changes until an administrator approves the change. Contact chip.walraven@gmail.com or tonya@decaturpca.org if you need help.

Annual Christmas Cantata & Reception: Mark your calendars in advance for a spectacular event, “*Sing Noel!*” which all 4 choirs have been preparing for us. Join us next Sunday evening, December 11 from 5:00 - 6:00pm. Immediately following there will be a delicious reception to honor the Cantata and to celebrate the Christmas season.

Midweek College Study: College-aged young adults are invited to a midweek study every Thursday night at 6:00 at Chris and Laine Oliver's house (2309 Greenwood Dr. SE). We are going through *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* by J.I. Packer For more information, contact Nathan at nathan@decaturpca.org or (256) 280-7912.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

WINTER 2022

9:30 am

Presbyterianism: Who We Are and How We Got Here: Come join us as we study Presbyterianism, in the classroom across the hall from the church offices. Topics include Revelation and Scripture, Overview of Reformed Theology, Covenant Theology, God (Theology) and Man (Anthropology), Christ (Christology), Salvation (Soteriology), Church (Ecclesiology), Practical Theology, Church Policy and the PCA, and Elders and Deacons. Please join us in this study.

Sedona Class: A study of Mark - Sports Center of the Bible. The class meets in the classroom down the back hallway from the sanctuary, across from the choir room. Walk-ons are welcome!

Study #158 - Ezra and Nehemiah: Come join the new adult class in room #158 where in the context of study and fellowship, we will discuss the vital story of a community revived and restored by God's grace, through the gifted individuals of Ezra and Nehemiah, preparing the way for the Messiah to come.

Session

Jeff Keith	Allen Schmidt
Mike McMahan	Greg Smith
Kent Quinn	Blake Temple
Brian Rodgers	Chip Walraven
Connor Ross	

Diaconate

John Elder	Andy Thompson
James Fudge	Sam Thompson
Bill Nelson	David Whitcomb
Scott Missildine	David Zajic
Steve Sasser	

Church Staff

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Service Times

9:30am	Sunday School
10:45am	Worship

DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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