



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

"The circle of God's salvation will take in but go far beyond Israel, to include the nations. As Yahweh called the Servant himself 'my salvation,' so Simeon calls the infant he holds 'your salvation': 'My eyes have seen your salvation.' He not only will bring salvation but He Himself can rightly be called 'salvation'; He will not only bring consolation to Israel but He Himself is the consoler. For Simeon, 'salvation' is something he can hold in his arms. And he is doing so."

Dale Ralph Davis

"Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart."

Charles Wesley

The Lord's Day — December 11, 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

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

Joey Carter, Campus Outreach, Troy University

Responsive Call to Worship

Revelation 12:10; Isaiah 9:6

Pastor: "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come."

People: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

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Hymn of Praise

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Montgomery

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.

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

The Bill Nelson 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

adapted from *The Valley of Vision*

Divine Lawgiver, I know the shame of my open violations of your law, my secret faults, my omissions of duty, my neglect of the means of grace, and my half-hearted worship. My iniquities are increased over my head; My trespasses are known in the heavens, but there Christ is also, my Advocate with the Father, my propitiation for sins, and I hear his word of peace. Grant me repentance in response to Christ's kindness so that my will would reflect yours and sin would not govern my actions ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

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.

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 heav'nly 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.

Come, Oh Redeemer, Come

Ortega

Father enthroned on high, Holy, holy ancient and eternal Light, Hear our prayer.
Come, oh Redeemer, come; grant us mercy. Come, oh Redeemer, come, grant us peace.
Lord, save us from the dark, Of our striving faithless and troubled hearts, Weighed down.
Look now upon our need; Lord be with us. Heal us and make us free, From our sin.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Pastor Scott Phillips

...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.

(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

Sing We Now of Christmas

Worship Choir

Soli Deo Gloria, Dare 2 Declare, Kids of the King

(From our “Sing Noel” Christmas Cantata)

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon

Pastor Nathan White

Simeon’s Song

Luke 2:25-35 (page 857)

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.)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Moultrie

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Benediction²

Jude 1:1b-2

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to 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

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 TONIGHT from 5:00 - 6:00pm. Immediately following there will be a delicious reception to honor the Cantata and to celebrate the Christmas season.

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

Women's Bible Study: Make plans to be part of Women's Bible study in the New year! Our books for the Winter/Spring study of Luke are available for purchase in the book nook for \$8. Our Women's Bible studies will resume Tuesday, January 17th and Monday evening, January 23rd. For more information, contact Teresa Quinn at teresaquinn703@gmail.com.

Ladies! Mark your calendars for the evening of February 11th and the morning of the 12th! We will have the opportunity to hear from Christina Fox, author of the book *Closer Than a Sister*. She will be speaking to us about friendships in the church; both cultivating them within the body and reflecting them to the world around us. More details coming soon!

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.

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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