



For what we proclaim is not ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants
for Jesus' sake.
2 Corinthians 4:5

Of all the acts of man, repentance is the most divine. The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none.
Thomas Carlyle

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing
that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
Romans 2:4

The Lord's Day — December 18, 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

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wisemen from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger; In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger, Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother. And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever,
His power and glory ever more proclaim! His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 98:4-6

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

People: With the lyre and the sound of melody!

Pastor: With trumpets and the sound of the horn,

All: Make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

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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.

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent: Malachi 3:1-4

The John Elder Family

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

Holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before You and one another our sin: prone to evil and slothful in good; wandering from Your ways, wasting Your gifts, and forgetting Your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for how we have displeased You. Teach us to hate our errors; cleanse us from our secret savors; forgive our idolatry, all for the sake of Your Son. Send Your purifying grace into our hearts that we may live in Your light and walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* **Amen!**

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:9

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

O Come All Ye Faithful

Chapman

Come let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him (2x)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him.

Yea, Lord we bless Thee, born for our salvation: Oh, Jesus forever be Thy name adored.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. (2x)

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him. (4x)

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.

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.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Reed

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Pastor Nathan White

(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.)

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Preparing to Meet God
Luke 3:1-14 (page 858)

We Respond By Receiving New Members

The Lord Adds to His Church

*Sam & Kellyn Wilson (Murphy, Wally)
Katie Oakley*

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

*Wallace Carter Wilson
Covenant Child of Sam & Kellyn Wilson*

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 unreservedly dedicate your child to God, 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 Allen Schmidt

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.)

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.

Benediction²

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

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

Christmas Eve Service: Our Christmas Eve service will be this Saturday, December 24th, at 5:00 PM. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ! (*There will not be nursery and childcare*)

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 <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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