



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 Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for Him Who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it, not vitiating the value of the Divine appearing by exceeding their capacity to receive it.

Athanasius of Alexandria

The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets.
Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.

J.I. Packer

The Lord's Day — December 25, 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

How Great our Joy

Traditional

While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so He did say, In Bethlehem a Child today.

There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well, That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

From Luke 2:10-14

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Congregation: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

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.

¹ All songs used by permission or covered under CCLI license # 391165.

Reading of the Word: *The Sympathetic Savior*

Hebrews 4:9-16

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

adapted from *The Valley of Vision*

All-knowing God, we are ashamed of our open violations of your law, our hidden faults, our omissions of duty, our failure to make use of your means of grace, and of our selfishness even in our worship of you. Our iniquities are too many for us to number, though you see them all. But you also see Christ, who is our high priest, who paid for these sins, who pleads perfectly on our behalf. Grant us repentance and let us rest in his grace ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* **Amen!**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Sing We Now of Christmas

Traditional

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here! Listen to our praises to the Babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!

Shepherds on a hillside heard the angels sing: glory, honor, praises to the infant King.

Wise Men sought and found Him, treasures did they bring;
Bowling down they worshiped Christ, the King of kings.

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Caswall

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies;
He who throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say, what's your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep, on the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night, Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Savior's birth".

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."

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Pastor Rick Stark

(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

Sermon

Pastor Scott Phillips

Behold the Child
Luke 2:41-52 (page 858)

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.)

In the Bleak Midwinter (with Gloria)

Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

*Gloria, Gloria, Now my eyes have seen; Soli Deo Gloria!
He, salvation brings, As the Lord has promised, I may go in peace*

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart. In the bleak midwinter.

I may go in peace, as the Lord has promised, I may go in peace.

Benediction²

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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

Holiday Office Hours: The church will be closed Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2.

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

Senior Pastor	Scott Phillips	scott@decaturpca.org
Associate Pastor	Rick Stark	rick@decaturpca.org
Assistant Pastor	Nathan White	nathan@decaturpca.org
Worship Director	Stu Schieler	stu@decaturpca.org
Office Administrator	Tonya Roth	office@decaturpca.org
NextGen Coordinator	Jessica Keith	jlkeith78@gmail.com
Nursery Coordinator	Allison Seale	alliseale@gmail.com
Kitchen Coordinator	Elena Suggs	jayandelena@msn.com
Media Coordinator	Leah Scott	leahccarpenter@gmail.com

Service Times

9:30am	Sunday School
10:45am	Worship

DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

2306 MODAUS ROAD, SOUTHWEST / DECATUR, ALABAMA 35603