



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

If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair.

C.S. Lewis

Our wisdom, in so far as it ought to be deemed true and solid Wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves.

John Calvin

# The Lord's Day — March 12, 2023

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus! Thank you for joining us today and may the Lord richly bless you.

## Song of Assembly<sup>1</sup>

## Come Praise and Glorify

Kauflin/Chester

Come praise and glorify our God, The Father of our Lord  
In Christ He has in heav'nly realms, His blessings on us poured  
For pure and blameless in His sight, He destined us to be  
And now we've been adopted through, His Son eternally

Come praise and glorify our God, Who gives His grace in Christ  
In Him our sins are washed away, Redeemed through sacrifice  
In Him God has made known to us, The myst'ry of His will  
That Christ should be the head of all, His purpose to fulfill  
*To the praise of Your glory, To the praise of Your mercy and grace,  
To the praise of Your glory, You are the God who saves*

Come praise and glorify our God, For we've believed the Word  
And through our faith we have a seal, The Spirit of the Lord  
The Spirit guarantees our hope, Until redemption's done  
Until we join in endless praise, To God, the Three in One

## Welcome and Announcements

## Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 89:14-18

Pastor: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

**People: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,**

Pastor: Who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.

**People: For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.**

**All: For our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

## Prayer of Adoration & Praise

## Hymn of Praise

## How Firm a Foundation

Rippon

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said, To you who for refuge to Jesus hath fled?

Fear not! I am with thee; O be not dismayed, For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee; and cause thee to stand, Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose; I will not, I will not desert to His foes.  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

<sup>1</sup> All songs used by permission or covered under CCLI license # 391165.

## **Reading of the Word: *The Reason to Obey the Lord***

**Deuteronomy 26:1-9**

When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. And you shall make response before the Lord your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **Confession of Sin**

**God, our deliverer, you have set us free in Christ from slavery to sin. But we confess that sin continues to dwell in us. We struggle because we do not do the good we want to do, but the evil we do not want is what we keep on doing. We delight in your law in our inner being, but our growth is often slow and hard because sin wages war against our minds and hearts. So we sin against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Lord, have mercy on us and deliver us from this body of death ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...***  
**Amen!**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Colossians 1:13-14**

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## **Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs**

### **Arise, My Soul, Arise**

**Wesley**

Arise, my soul arise, shake off your guilty fears, The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears.  
Before the throne, my Surety stands, Before the throne, my Surety stands,  
My name is written on His hands.

*Arise, arise, arise, arise my soul, arise! Arise, arise, arise, arise my soul, arise, Shake off your guilty fear and rise!*

He ever lives above, for me to intercede, His all redeeming love, His precious blood to plead,  
His blood atoned for every race, His blood atoned for every race, And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

My God is reconciled, His pardoning voice I hear, He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear,  
With confidence I now draw nigh, With confidence I now draw nigh, And "Father, Abba, Father" cry.

## Holy Is the Lord, God Almighty

Tomlin

We stand and lift up our hands, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.  
We bow down and worship Him now, how great, how awesome is He.  
And together we sing, everyone sing.

*Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory!*  
*Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory!*  
*The earth is filled with His glory!*

It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown.  
It's rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown.

Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty, Holy, Holy

## Lord Have Mercy

Merkel

Jesus I've forgotten the words that You have spoken  
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim.  
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom  
Forgive me for my unbelief; renew the fire again.

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.*  
*Lord, have mercy on me.*

I have longed to know You... and Your tender mercies  
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end.  
I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence,  
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Greg Smith

**...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.)*

## His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon

Pastor Scott Phillips

**Through the Illusion**  
**John 8:31-59 (Page 894)**

## **We Respond By Receiving New Members**

### **The Lord Adds to His Church**

*Nelson & Anna Littrell (Collier),  
Riley Murray*

### **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**

*Collier Elisabeth Littrell  
Covenant Child of Nelson & Anna Littrell*

#### **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 unreservedly dedicate your child to God, 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 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 Greg Smith**

## 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.)*

### I Saw the Cross

Carpenter

I saw the cross of Jesus, when burdened with my sin; I sought the cross of Jesus, to give me peace within;  
He drew my soul to Him and then He cleansed it in His blood;  
And in the cross of Jesus Christ I found my peace with God.

I love the cross of Jesus, it tells me what I am, A vile and guilty creature, saved only through the Lamb;  
No righteousness nor merit mine, no beauty can I plead;  
Yet in the cross I glory, my title there I read.

I trust the cross of Jesus, in every trying hour, My sure and certain refuge, my never failing tower;  
In every fear and conflict see I more than conqueror am;  
Though living safe, or dying, through Christ, the risen Lamb.

*Safe, Safe am I, in the cross of Jesus! Still resting in a peace that is unshaken  
Then in glory I'll sing His wondrous power, Where sin can never enter in, and death is known no more.  
And in the cross of Jesus Christ I found my peace with God.*

## Benediction<sup>2</sup>

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

By Faith

Getty\Townend

We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

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<sup>2</sup> 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

**J.O.Y. Resumes!** The J.O.Y. (just.older.youth) is calling out to all our empty-nesters to gather for a Potluck lunch in the Cafe today Sunday, March 12. Please bring a favorite dish to share. Drinks will be provided. Let's bloom this Spring in this vital ministry! For more information, contact Mary Chism (336.675.5900, maebelle12@att.net).

**There will be no Wednesday Night Activities this Wednesday, March 15, due to Spring Break. There will be no dinner, no choir, no adult studies, and no children's activities. The Youth will still meet for a game night activity.**

**Women's Bible Study:** The Women's Bible Study group will not meet this Tuesday, March 14, due to Spring Break.

**Internships and Summer Missions:** Please consider praying and giving generously to the following:

Grace Nelson, RUF-NC State (<https://givetoruf.org/donate/Grace.Nelson>);

Jack Lyons, MTW-Japan (<https://mtw.org/missionaries/lyons-jack>);

Benji Martin, MTW-Bulgaria (<https://mtw.org/missionaries/martin-benji>).

**Wes Baker, *The Peru Mission*:** Next Sunday morning, March 19, the adult Sunday school classes will meet together in the sanctuary that we might hear from Wes Baker about the mission work in Peru.

**Called Congregational Meeting:** On Sunday evening, March 26, at 6:00pm, there will be congregational meeting to hear Pastor Scott present the "State of the Church" (actually, more like the way forward for the love of Jesus and the Kingdom of God). Please join us!

**Good Friday Service:** On Friday evening, April 07, (time tba) the church will gather to spend time singing and giving thanks to the Lord, while reflecting on truths of the Cross of Calvary. Please join us!

**Table Bridal Shower:** Sunday, April 16 for Evelyn Phillips and Zach Boyles. There will be a table in the gathering room for you to leave your gifts as they prepare for marriage. They are registered at <https://www.zola.com/wedding/evelyn-zach/registry>

**Dominican Republic Mission Trip!** DPC is going back, June 7-13, 2023, for a fantastic ministry opportunity! Please let Carol Godwin know if you are going or are considering going, for she is needing a head count (256.227.5614, carolg@pclnet.net).

**Youth Fundraising:** Several of the youth have signed up wanting to do babysitting, yard work, and housework to raise money towards their RYM conference fee. If you are interested in having any of this type of work done for you, by DPC youth, please send a description of the task and the number of students needed to Nathan at [nathan@decaturpca.org](mailto:nathan@decaturpca.org). The donation amount will be whatever is agreed upon with the student and their parents. Payment should be made to DPC with the students' names in the memo line. Please contact Nathan if you have any questions.

**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 *1 Kings*. For more information, contact Nathan at [nathan@decaturpca.org](mailto:nathan@decaturpca.org) or (256) 280-7912.

# ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

WINTER 2023

9:30 am

**1 & 2 Thessalonians:** Come join us as we study 1 & 2 Thessalonians, in the classroom across the hall from the church offices. 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

George Godwin  
Jeff Keith  
Mike McMahan  
Brian Rodgers  
Connor Ross

Allen Schmidt  
Greg Smith  
Blake Temple  
Chip Walraven

## Diaconate

John Elder  
James Fudge  
Wade Littrell  
Bill Nelson  
Scott Missildine  
Kris Olin

Steve Sasser  
Andy Thompson  
Sam Thompson  
David Whitcomb  
David Zajic

## Church Staff

Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Assistant Pastor  
Worship Director  
Office Administrator  
NextGen Coordinator  
Nursery Coordinator  
Kitchen Coordinator  
Media Coordinator

Scott Phillips  
Rick Stark  
Nathan White  
Stu Schieler  
Tonya Roth  
Jessica Keith  
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## Service Times

9:30am      Sunday School  
10:45am      Worship

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