



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

To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.

Tim Keller

Jesus, the good shepherd, will not travel at such a rate as to overdrive the lambs. He has tender consideration for the poor and needy. Kings usually look to the interests of the great and the rich, but in the kingdom of our Great Shepherd He cares most for the poor... The weaklings and the sickly of the flock are the special objects of the Savior's care... You think, dear heart, that you are forgotten, because of your nothingness and weakness and poverty. This is the very reason you are remembered.

C.H. Spurgeon

The Lord's Day — March 26, 2023

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

Song of Assembly¹

Always

Tomlin

I believe You gave sight to the blind, I believe that the dead came to life
I believe there were wonders and signs, And You're still the same

I believe every word that You said, I believe there are scars in Your hands
That Your goodness is good without end, And You'll never change

*I will tell of Your wonders, sing of Your grace, The God of creation he knows me by name
The Lord is faithful, yesterday, now, and always. Always.
Your mercy is mighty, age after age, And all generations will bow down and praise
The Lord is faithful, yesterday, now, and always. Always.*

I believe You will come in the clouds, I believe You are here even now
In Your presence, I know there is power, Power to save, oh

[Bridge]

You were, You are, You always will be God, You were (You were). You are (You are)
You always will be God. Yes, You always will be God

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 100:1-5

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

People: Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Pastor: Know that the Lord, he is God!

People: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Pastor: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

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Hymn of Praise

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Let us early turn to thee.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Let us early turn to thee.

Reading of the Word: *The Lord Is Our Shepherd*

Ezekiel 34:11-24

“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way. You made us to glorify and enjoy you, but we live for ourselves. You made us to love and serve our neighbors, but we want our neighbors to serve us. Yet you have laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He was pierced for our transgressions; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace. By his wounds we are healed. For Jesus sake, forgive our sins and heal us ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Francis

O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Your love;
Leading onward, leading homeward, to Your glorious rest above.
Oh the deep, deep love, all I need and trust, Is the deep, deep love of Jesus.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! Spread His praise from shore to shore;
How He came to pay our ransom, through the saving cross He bore;
How He watches o'er His loved ones, those He died to make His own;
How for them He's interceding, pleading now before the throne.

Our God

Tomlin

Water You turned into wine, opened the eyes of the blind, There's no one like You, none like You
Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes we rise, There's no one like You, none like You
*Our God is greater, our God is stronger, God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome in power, our God, our God...*

And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us, And if our God is with us, then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us, And if our God is with us, then what could stand against?
What could stand against?

He Will Hold Me Fast

Habershon

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path.
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast.
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast. For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.
For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast.
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast.
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Greg Smith

(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

Surely This Must Be The Son of God

Worship Choir

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon

Pastor Scott Phillips

Is Your Shepherd Any Good?

John 10:1-18 (Page 896)

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.)

Take My Life

Havergal/Tomlin

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise;
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing, always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee;
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use every pow'r as You choose.

Here am I, all of me. Take my life, it's all for Thee.

Take myself and I will be ever, only all for Thee.

Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Your feet its treasure store;
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.

Benediction²

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

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

Called Congregational Meeting: Tonight at 6:00pm, there will be a light dessert and delightful fellowship, and then we will gather in the sanctuary 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 7, 6:00pm, 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!

NextGen Easter Egg Hunt: On Saturday April 8, at 10:00 a.m. the children are invited to DPC for an Easter Egg Hunt! There will be light refreshments and plenty of eggs to go around. This is a great opportunity to invite friends who may be church curious, but not ready to jump all the way in just yet! (Ages 2-11)

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>

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser: Sunday morning, April 23rd, the youth will host a pancake breakfast. We will begin serving at 8:00 and stop serving at 9:20, in order to make sure everyone is able to get to Sunday School. You can help us with this by making a small donation that morning and eating some good food, and/or donating pancake mix, juice, or pre-cooked frozen sausage patties ahead of time. If you'd like to donate any of these items, email Nathan at nathan@decaturpca.org.

NextGen Service Night: On Wednesday, May 10, from 5:30-7:30pm, our kids will participate in NCC Service Night. We will be sending permission forms for those children who do not need booster seats and wish to ride in a van together. This trip is also open to our younger children who need booster seats, who may ride with their parents to the NCC. Details to come, but we will be serving a light dinner, touring the NCC, and helping to make toiletry bags for the people served by the NCC.

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>).

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. 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.

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
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Nathan White
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Service Times

9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship

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