



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's Day — October 1, 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

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Newton/Tomlin

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!

*My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood His mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.*

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 27:1, 4

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

People: to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple!

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

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Hymn of Praise

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Wesley

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Great Prophet of my God, my tongue would bless thy name; By thee the joyful news of our salvation came,
The joyful news of sins forgiv'n, Of hell subdued and peace with heav'n.

Jesus, my great High Priest, offered his blood and died; My guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside;
His pow'rful blood did once atone. And now it pleads before the throne.

Reading of the Word: *The Foolishness of Idolatry*

Isaiah 44:13-20

The carpenter stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil. He shapes it with planes and marks it with a compass. He shapes it into the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to dwell in a house. He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it. Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it. Half of it he burns in the fire. Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!" And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!" They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?" He feeds on ashes; a deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, to know You is the fulfillment of our deepest longings and the satisfaction of our most ardent desires. Yet foolishly we have sought our pleasures elsewhere. We have put the seeking of idols, which leave us empty, above seeking You. We have failed to love you with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us for our sins for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. And grant that from now on, we might serve you in the newness of life ...*Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin...* Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

You Are Worthy of My Praise

Ruis

I will worship (repeat), with all of my heart (repeat);
I will praise you (repeat), with all of my strength. (repeat)
I will seek you (repeat), all of my days; (repeat)
And I will follow (repeat), follow all of Your ways (repeat).

*I will give You all my worship,
I will give You all my praise.
You alone I long to worship,
You alone are worthy of my praise.*

I will bow down (repeat), and hail You as King (repeat);
I will serve you (repeat), give You everything (repeat).
I will lift up (repeat), my eyes to Your throne (repeat);
And I will trust You (repeat), I will trust You alone (repeat).

Thy Mercy My God

Stoker

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song, The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last, Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart, Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground, And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own, And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine, Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

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 built an altar where I worship things of man.
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You.
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing
Pardon my transgressions; help me love You again.
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 Allen Schmidt

(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

The Disciples' Cost
Luke 14:25-33 (Page 874)

We Respond By Receiving a New Member

The Lord Adds to His Church

Lily Belle Keith

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 a become follower of Christ?

Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

Prayer for Lily Belle

Elder Connor Ross

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.)

Surrender

Cottrell

No more running, no more hiding. No pretending I'm OK.
No more struggling, no more fighting. Come and have Your way.

*I surrender, I bow down.
I surrender, here and now.
I am captured, Yours forever.
I surrender, I bow down.*

You pursue me, You have found me. I fall helpless at Your feet.
Your possession, I am conquered. Love has set me free.

I come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the risen king.

Benediction²

from Ephesians 3:17-19

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Amen.

Song of Faith

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Newton/Tomlin

My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood His mercy reigns;
Unending love, amazing grace.

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

Welcome to our Visitors! We are so grateful to God that you've come! If you are willing, please use the QR to give us as much contact information as you are comfortable with. In this way, we reconnect with you and find ways that we may be able to serve you or pray for you.



Life Groups/Small Groups: Looking to grow spiritually? 'Discipleship' is a key component of the DPC mission! Please use the "interest card" to indicate your desire to participate in a Life Group or other small group. For more information, contact pastor Rick Stark, rick@decaturpca.org.

Grandparenting Matters! Sunday School: Grandparents are invited to join a new Sunday School. We are studying and discussing from the Scriptures why intentional Christian grandparenting matters and how do we practically pass along our faith to our children and grandchildren. For more information, contact pastor Rick, 334.728.1409 or rick@decaturpca.org.

Wednesday Night Ministries: Our mid-week ministries have resumed. Come join us every Wednesday! Soli de Gloria Choir begins at 5:00pm. A church family meal is served from 5:30pm – 6:15pm. Kid's Choir and Youth begin at 6:00pm; Adult Choir begins at 6:15. NextGen, Open Door Study and Life Groups are at 6:30pm – 7:30pm.

J.O.Y. Luncheon: Join the J.O.Y. Group today, October 1st after the 10:45 am worship service for a potluck lunch and fellowship time. Make new friends with other "empty nesters" who, like you, no longer must rush home to feed hungry families. Following the meal, we will tease our brains with a fun game or two. For more information, contact Mary Chism, 336.675.5900 or maebelle12@att.net.

Women's Potluck Fellowship: All ladies are invited to the Women's Fall Potluck Fellowship Social, this Thursday October 5th, 6 pm, at the home of Betsy Stark, 3773 South Woodtrail Rd SW, Decatur. Please bring a dish to share! Join us in building connections with other women, spending an evening together with warm fellowship and good food. For more information, contact Jessica Keith, 256.466.4651 or jlkeith78@gmail.com

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

FALL 2023

9:30 am

“Grandparenting Matters”: We invite all grandparents to join us. We will be studying and discussing from the Scriptures why grandparenting matters and how do we practically love and pass along our faith to our children and grandchildren, in the classroom across the hall from the church offices.

Sedona Class: “What the PCA Believes”. The class taught by Jeff Keith and Connor Ross, meets in the classroom down the back hallway from the sanctuary, across from the choir room. Walk-ins are welcome!

Study #158 - Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon: In the context of study and fellowship, we will discuss and make applications from the stories of the New Testament church - its community, doctrine, and mission - through the Letters of Paul.

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
Director of Youth Ministries
Worship Director
Office Administrator
NextGen Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator
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Service Times

8:15am Worship
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship

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