



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 — December 10, 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

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!

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 24:3–6

Pastor: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

People: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Pastor: He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

People: Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

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O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come Thou Rod of Jesse, free, Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Nelson Littrell Family (8:15 am)

The Reading for the Second Sunday of Advent: Malachi 3:1-4

The Christian Smith Family (10:45 am)

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

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone things we ought to have done, and we have done things we ought not to have done. There is no health in us apart from you, Lord. Have mercy upon us, O God, as we confess our faults ...Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin... Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 25:9

Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Worship with Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Wesley

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing on His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth,
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Immanuel

Card

A sign shall be given, a virgin will conceive, A human baby bearing undiminished Deity.

The glory of the nations, a light for all to see; And hope for all who will embrace His warm reality.

Immanuel, Our God is with us. And if God is with us, who could stand against us? Our God is with us, Immanuel.

You shall be my people, I will be your God, Said He who did not spare His Son, but gave Him for us all.
On earth there is no power, there is no depth or height, Could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.

For all those who live in the shadow of death, A glorious light has dawned.

For all those who stumble in the darkness, Behold, your light has come.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Moultrie

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Pastor Scott Phillips

...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.)

Singing to the Lord

The Christmas Gift

All Choirs

His Tithes & Our Offerings

Sermon

Tucker Fleming

God's Servant and the Spiritual Sojourner

Isaiah 49:1-6 (Page 609)

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

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Song of Faith

Behold Him

Jesus, Son of God, Messiah
The Lamb, the roaring Lion
Oh, be still and behold Him.

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.



Annual Christmas Cantata & Reception: Join us for a spectacular event, *O Holy Night, the Long Awaited One!*, which all choirs have been preparing for us. The event is TONIGHT, December 10th from 5:00 - 6:00pm. Immediately following there will be a delicious reception to honor the Cantata and to celebrate the Christmas season.

Christmas Eve Breakfast: Everyone is invited to come enjoy fellowship and breakfast on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30am. This will be in place of our normal Sunday schools. Also, note that there will be only one worship service at 10:45am on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Holiday Schedule:

Dec. 22, the church office closes at 1:00pm.

Dec. 24, no 8:15am worship or Sunday school; a 9:30am breakfast; 10:45am worship.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service at 4:30pm.

Dec. 26, the church office is closed all day.

Dec. 31, no 8:15am worship; regular 9:30am Sunday school and 10:45am worship service.

Jan. 01, the church office is closed all day.

ROOTS 2024: The next edition of ROOTS is on the calendar from 1/19-1/21 at Camp ToKnowHim. Our theme for this year is "My Savior Makes Me Whole," and the cost is \$145. To sign up, scan the QR code outside the Youth Room or email tucker@decaturpca.org for more information!

DPC Short-Term Mission Trip: Mark your calendars! Our 2024 mission in the Dominican Republic will be June 4-11!!

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.

Wednesday Night Ministries: We will take our Christmas break from our normal schedule of Wednesday night ministries, December 13 - January 03, and then resume on January 10, 2024! Mark your calendar!

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

WINTER 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: Galatians The class taught by George Godwin, 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
Kitchen Coordinator
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Service Times

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

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