



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

*2 Corinthians 4:5*

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December 15, 2024

## ***SERVICE TIMES***

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

## ***ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES***

Room 158: Ecclesiastes

Room 167: Romans

Room 168: Philippians

## ***WEDNESDAY NIGHTS***

***(RESUMES 01.08.25)***

5:00pm Soli Deo Gloria

5:30pm Meal

6:00pm NextGen & Youth

6:15pm Adult Choir

6:30pm Adult Groups

## ***WELCOME TO WORSHIP!***

Worship is the heart and soul of the church; we are made for exalting Christ. We are intentional to invite everyone each Lord's Day to encounter the living Christ in a joyful, reverent, and accessible way, receiving all the blessings of his Gospel to the praise and glory of God.

## ***OUR IDENTITY***

Vision: A community of transforming grace

Mission: Inviting everyone to love and follow Jesus

## ***CORE VALUES***

**Worship:** Reverent and Relevant

**Community:** Close-knit and Outward-facing

**Discipleship:** Robust and Transformational

**Service:** Compassionate and Bold

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

## LITURGY NOTES

Do you have questions about how we worship? This column throughout the worship guide answers the "what" and "why" of the elements of our liturgy.

During responsive readings, the part of the Leader will be in plain text, and **the part of the People will be in bold.**

This song allows us to get situated in the room and prepare our hearts for worship.

## Song of Assembly:

### How Great Our Joy<sup>1</sup>

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 & Announcements

Pastor Rick Stark

## Report of the Living Church

Joey Carter, Campus Outreach, Troy University

<sup>1</sup> All songs used by permission of covered under CCLI License #391165

## ***PSALM 105:1-3***

At God's command and invitation, we enter his presence and respond with

## **Call to Worship**

**PASTOR:** Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;

**PEOPLE: Make known his deed among the peoples!**

**PASTOR:** Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

**PEOPLE: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!**

## **Prayer of Adoration & Praise**

## **Hymn of Praise**

### **Joy To The World**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow;  
nor thorns infest the ground,  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Worship involves the whole person: body, soul, intellect, emotions. Singing hymns and songs grounded in biblical truth engages all our faculties in worship together.

## Reading of the Word

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: "I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God!**

## Confession of Sin

**Almighty and merciful God, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have lived for our glory instead of yours. In your mercy, open our eyes to the true hope that you have given us, help us to see that all the things we think will satisfy us in this world are only shadows, but you are the substance. We ask for your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life**

...Silent & Personalized Confession of Sin... **Amen!**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## *ISAIAH 42:1-7*

The Reading for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

Pete & DeeDee Kelly (8:15 am)

Michael & Karly Bailey (10:45 am)

When we confess our sins, we agree with Scripture's claim that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. We confess general sins together, followed by a silent moment for personal confession.

## *2 CORINTHIANS 5:21*

All who confess their sins and trust in God's mercy through Jesus Christ believe their sins are pardoned. We remember this truth with a weekly Scripture assuring us of God's willing forgiveness.

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

## **Midnight Clear (Love Song)**

It came upon the midnight clear  
that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth good will to men  
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies  
they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
o’er all the weary world:  
And man at war with man hears not  
the love song which they bring,  
O hush the noise and cease the strife  
and hear the angels sing.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God evermore.  
Good news, great joy for all.  
Melody breaks through the silence,  
Christ the Savior is born.  
Jesus, the love song of God. (Chorus 2x)  
Jesus, the love song of God.*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old.  
From angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold.

# God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
Fear not, then, said the angel, let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him  
from Satan's power and might.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and fellowship, each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
may your heart be filled with grace.

## What Child Is This?

What child is this, Who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Elders, responsible before God to care for and lead the church, serve by giving thanks for our blessings and praying for our needs.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition**

Pastor Scott Phillips

*(Immediately following this prayer, during the 10:45 service only, 4-6 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.)*

All we have belongs to God. One act of worship is to acknowledge his generosity through cheerful and sacrificial giving.

## **His Tithes & Offerings**

God promises to communicate with us through the preaching of his Word. Our trust is not in the preacher's ability, but in the Holy Spirit using the scriptures to engage our minds and hearts.

## **Sermon**

Jesus Came To Serve

Matthew 20:17-28 (Page 825)

Pastor Scott Phillips



# Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*(Elders will bring the bread and cup in trays to each row. Gluten free communion bread is available upon request; simply pass the regular bread to the next person and raise your hand to signal the pastor. He will bring you the gluten free bread. 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.)*

## Hope From Heaven

In darkness, this world's lost its way.  
Is there a hope of lasting change?  
We're broken by the weight of sin:  
Who can make us whole again?

From glory to a cattle stall  
Poor shepherds for a royal guard.  
The baby in his manger throne  
Is King of kings and Lord of lords.

*Hope from heaven born that night;  
Jesus Christ, the world's true light.  
Angels sang and so will I.  
Come, let us adore; our hope from heaven!*

This humble child our mighty God.  
His passion was a Roman cross.  
The power of sin and death undone  
Now raised to life the victory won.

*O come let us adore Him; O come let us adore Him;  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*Hope from heaven born that night;  
Jesus Christ, the world's true light.  
Angels sang and so will I.  
O come let us adore; Come, let us adore;  
Come, let us adore: our hope from heaven!*

Jesus gave the Church this symbolic meal to communicate his presence and fellowship with believers. It is the family meal of Christians.

### **To those not taking the Supper**

We're glad you're here and welcome you back any time. Take this moment to reflect on the claims made in this service and consider praying to ask God if he will persuade you of how you can know him.

## ***ISAIAH 60:1***

Just as God welcomed us into his presence at the beginning, now he blesses his children as we depart. We receive this blessing in faith as we trust God to do all he says he will do.

## **Benediction**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

# ***SERMON NOTES***

## ***SESSION***

George Godwin	Allen Schmidt
Jeff Keith	Jay Suggs
Mike McMahan	Blake Temple
Brian Rodgers	Andy Thompson
Connor Ross	Chip Walraven

## ***DIACONATE***

John Elder	Steve Sasser
James Fudge	Sam Thompson
Wade Littrell	David Whitcomb
Bill Nelson	David Zajic
Kris Olin	

## ***CHURCH STAFF***

Scott Phillips	Senior Pastor
Rick Stark	Associate Pastor
Tucker Fleming	Youth Director
Stu Schieler	Worship Director
Jesse Pawley	Administrative Director
Tonya Roth	Office Administrator
Jessica Keith	NextGen Coordinator
Allison Seale	Nursery Coordinator
Elena Suggs	Kitchen Coordinator

If this is your first time joining us, we would love to get to know you better. Please use them as you are comfortable sharing. In this way, we reconnect with you and find ways that we may be able to serve you or pray for you.



## ***CHURCH FAMILY REMINDERS***

### **Christmas Eve Service**

Celebrate Christmas Eve with us at 4:30 PM for a Lessons and Carols service! This evening of Scripture and song is a time for worship, fellowship, and outreach. Invite someone to join you!

### **One Service on 12/29**

We will have only the 10:45am worship service on Sunday, December 29th. Sunday School will meet as usual. We look forward to worshipping with you!

### **ROOTS**

Junior and Senior High students, join us for ROOTS, January 24–26 at Camp ToKnowHim in Pisgah, Alabama. Cost: \$145. Register online.

### **Decatur Presbyterian Church, P.C.A.**

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