



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

2 Corinthians 4:5

December 22, 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:

Hope From Heaven¹

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!*

Welcome & Announcements

Tucker Fleming, Youth Director

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REVELATION 5:11-13

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

Call to Worship

PASTOR: Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

PEOPLE: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

PASTOR: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

PEOPLE: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Prayer of Adoration & Praise

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief...

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God!**

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we confess that our glory has been our own comfort, rather than your Son's cross; that we have craved the pleasures of the world, rather than the fellowship of Christ's sufferings; that we have worked to save our own lives, rather than lose our lives for the sake of the good news. Have mercy on us, Father, and grant us the repentance we need. Cleanse us by the finished work of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and restore the joy that only you can give

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

Assurance of Forgiveness

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

ISAIAH 53:3-10a

The Reading for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Ben & Sally Neill (8:15 am)

Guillermo & Joan Gonzalez (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

1 PETER 3:18

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

O Come All Ye Faithful

Come let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him (2x)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him.

Yea, Lord we bless Thee, born for our salvation:
Oh, Jesus forever be Thy name adored.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. (2x)

Let us adore Him, Come let us adore Him. (4x)

Away In A Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

In The Bleak Midwinter

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.*

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

Tucker Fleming

(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 Die

John 12:20-33 (Page 899)

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.)

Precious Promise

Oh what a precious promise, Oh what a gift of love;
An angel told a virgin that she's gonna have a son.
And though it's a precious promise,
she wonders how can this be;
What will the people say, and what if Joseph can't believe.
And her questions and her fears,
are met with an overwhelming joy,
that God has chosen her.
Oh what a precious promise;
Mary waits as heaven comes to earth.

Oh what a precious promise, Oh what a gift of love;
Joseph makes his choice to do
what few men would have done:
To take Mary as his bride,
when she's already carrying a child that isn't his own.
Oh what a precious promise;
Mary and the child will have a home.

And shepherds stand on a hillside,
Their hearts racing with the news the angel told them;
A star's light fills up the dark sky,
As a night of precious promise is unfolding.

Oh what a precious promise, Oh what a gift of love;
The waiting now is over and the time has finally come.
For the God who made this world to roll back the curtain
And unveil His passion for the heart of man.
Oh what a precious promise, Lying in a manger in Bethlehem.

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.

REVELATION 1:5-6

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

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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!

Office Closed

The church office will be closed December 24-27 and will reopen on December 30. All end of year giving to be in by Tuesday, December 31.

One Service on 12/29

We will have only the 10:45am worship service next 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.

2306 Modaus Road, Southwest / Decatur, Alabama 35603
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5660 / Decatur, Alabama 35601
(256)351-6010