



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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March 16, 2025

# SERVICE TIMES

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

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- Room 158: Ecclesiastes
- Room 167: Romans
- Room 168: Judges

# WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

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:

### Open The Eyes Of My Heart<sup>1</sup>

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see You, I want to see You.

*To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory,  
Pour out Your power and love as we sing, "Holy, holy, holy."*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see You, I want to see You.

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.

## Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Rick Stark, Associate Pastor

## Report of the Living Church

John Elder, Architecture Committee

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

## *Based on 2 Samuel*

**22:2-4**

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

## **Call to Worship**

**PASTOR:** The Lord is our rock and our fortress and our deliverer.

**PEOPLE:** **He is our God, our rock, in whom we take refuge.**

**PASTOR:** The Lord is our shield, and the horn of our salvation, our stronghold and our refuge.

**PEOPLE:** **Lord, you are our savior; you save us from violence.**

**ALL:** **We call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.**

## **Prayer of Adoration & Praise**

### **Hymn of Praise**

#### **Praise To The Lord The Almighty**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,  
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been,  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
Come now with praises before Him!  
Let the amen sound from His people again;  
Gladly fore'er we adore Him.

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

And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God!**

## Confession of Sin

**Father in heaven, we are tempted to ignore your Word, so it gets carried off from us like the seed along the path. We are tempted to abandon your Word when we experience hardship or suffering of all kinds. We are easily distracted from your Word by the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches. O Lord, renew your mercy toward us and give us ears to hear. Let your Word of salvation take root in us and bear the fruit of new holiness for your name's sake.**

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

## Assurance of Forgiveness

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## *MATTHEW 13:3-9*

How Do You Respond to God's Word?

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

## *ROMANS 6:22-23*

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**

## **Holy Forever**

A thousand generations falling down in worship.  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb.  
And all who've gone before us, and all who will believe.  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

If you've been forgiven, and if you've been redeemed.  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.  
If you walk in freedom, and if you bear His name.  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.  
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

*And the angels cry, Holy All creations cries, Holy!  
You are lifted high, Holy! Holy forever!  
Hear Your people sing, Holy! To the King of kings, Holy!  
You will always be Holy! Holy forever!*

*Your name is the highest. Your name is the greatest.  
Your name stands above them all.  
All thrones and dominions. All powers and positions.  
Your name stands above them all*

## Hallelujah (Scars)

My God you are the great I Am,  
The lion and sacrificial lamb  
Through suffering, your pain runs deep,  
And to my wounds your wounds alone can speak.

You're not a distant God out there,  
But one who's close and meets my every care.  
Your lonely death upon the tree, bore marks that truly  
show your love for me.

*Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Your scars will never fade*  
*Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Your scars will never ever fade*

My suffering is not the end,  
In sorrow I am walking yet again  
But you're a God who can relate,  
Who loves enough to live my every pain.

## I Am Not Alone

When I walk through deep waters,  
I know that You will be with me  
When I'm standing in the fire, I will not be overcome  
Through the valley of the shadow, I will not fear

*I am not alone, I am not alone,*  
*You will go before me*  
*You will never leave me (2x)*

In the midst of deep sorrow,  
I see Your light is breaking through  
The dark of night will not overtake me,  
I am pressing into You  
Lord, You fight my every battle, and I will not fear

You amaze me, Redeem me, You call me as Your own

You're my strength, You're my defender  
You're my refuge in the storm, through these trials  
You've always been faithful, You bring healing to my soul

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

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

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.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving & Petition

Elder Andy Thompson

*(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.)*

## His Tithes & Offerings

### Sermon

Some Things Never Change

Acts 14:1-28 (Page 923)

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.)*

## He Will Keep You (Psalm 121)

I lift my eyes and see, I need not be afraid  
All my help comes from the Lord  
Who the earth and sky has made

*He will keep you from all evils, behind you and before  
He will sustain you, through this journey  
From now and evermore*

The Lord will never sleep  
My steps He has ordained  
For the One who holds the night  
Is the Sovereign of my days

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.

## ***ROMANS 8:38-39***

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**

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.

# ***SERMON NOTES***

## ***SESSION***

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

## ***DIACONATE***

John Elder	Kris Olin
James Fudge	William Sasser
Braden Ladner	Sam Thompson
Wade Littrell	David Whitcomb
Scott Missildine	David Zajic
Bill Nelson	

## ***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***

### **Missions Cookie Fundraiser**

Cookies and desserts will be available for just 50¢ each this Wednesday night (3/19)! All proceeds go toward supporting our two sponsored children in the Dominican Republic. Bring your change, grab a treat, and make a difference!

### **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**

Mark your calendars! On Sunday morning, March 30, our youth will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in place of Sunday School. Join us in the fellowship hall from 9:30–10:30 AM for a delicious meal before the second service. A suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family will help fund their ministry. Questions? Contact Tucker Fleming at [tucker@decaturpca.org](mailto:tucker@decaturpca.org).

### **RYM High School Summer Retreat – July 8–13!**

Join DPC's high school students for an unforgettable week at Reformed Youth Ministries! It'll be a time of worship, fun, and growing together. Cost: \$300 (\$75 deposit). Register online. Want to help a student cover their camp cost? Offer a paid project to a student! Contact Tucker Fleming at [tucker@decaturpca.org](mailto:tucker@decaturpca.org).

### **VBS**

Make sure to save the date for VBS this summer! June 16–19

### **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