



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 14, 2025

SUNDAY TIMES

7:45am	Prayer
8:15am	Worship
9:30am	Sunday School
10:45am	Worship

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- Room 158: Hebrews
- Room 167: Ecclesiastes
- Room 168: The Heart of Worship

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

(resumes January 7)

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 Joy¹

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, Associate Pastor

Report of the Living Church

Kaleigh Fleming, WIC Retreat

Psalm 18:27-28

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

Call to Worship

PASTOR: For you save a humble people

PEOPLE: **But the haughty eyes you bring down.**

PASTOR: For it is you who light my lamp;

PEOPLE: **The Lord my God lightens my darkness.**

ALL: **This God—his way is perfect; the word of the
Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take
refuge in him.**

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

Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

2 SAMUEL 7:1-12

The Reading for the 3rd Sunday of Advent
Jack & Kendall Moores (8:15 am)
George & Joyce Kitchens (10:45 am)

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have sinned against you. We have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the leading of our own hearts rather than your leading, Good Shepherd. Apart from you, O God, there is no health in us.

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

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.

1 John 1:9

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.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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)

While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
Fear not, said he for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds,
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
To you and all mankind.

To you in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.
The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
Christ is born!

All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace!
Goodwill henceforth from God to man
Begin and never cease.

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 Rick Stark

...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, 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.)

Singing to the Lord

Thorn & Thistle (8:15 service)

Worship Choir

Born Is The King (10:45 service)

All Choirs

His Tithes & Offerings

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

Sermon

The Light That Cleanses What It Shows

Luke 2:8-20 (Page 857)

Tucker Fleming

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.

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.)

The First Noel

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took it's rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

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 11:34-36

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 who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

SESSION

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

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

Men's & Women's Bible Studies



If this is your first time joining us, we'd love to get to know you better. If you're willing, please scan the QR code and share a little about yourself. This helps us follow up, answer any questions you might have, and find ways we can serve or pray for you.



CHURCH FAMILY REMINDERS

Light of the World – Christmas Cantata

Join us tonight, Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 PM for a 45-minute Christmas service presented by all DPC choirs, followed by fellowship with food. A great event to invite friends and neighbors!

Christmas Caroling – Dec 21 | 5:00 PM

Meet at the church at 5:00 PM as we carpool to sing at homes and retirement centers. We'll spend about 10–15 minutes at each stop—carol books provided!

Christmas Eve Service

Join us for our Christmas Eve service at 5:00pm on December 24th. Our Lessons and Carols service will be a joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus. Be sure to bring your friends and family as we share the Gospel.

Wednesday Nights End

Our Wednesday night activities will take a break until the new year. We'll resume on January 7.

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