

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2017

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"A lot of people look at mountain top removal as a negative, but I see it as a positive... We don't want to defend mountain top removal, but I want us to promote mountain top removal, because we need flat land. We can not have economic expansion without places to do things and part of mountain top removal is for places like hospitals, airports and different type of merchants."

— former Kentucky Lt. Governor Daniel Mongiardo
in The Appalachian News-Express, 2008

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prière

Ambrose Thomas

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 121:1, 5, 8

L: From where will our help come?

P: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

L: Who is our keeper?

P: The Lord is our keeper, by day and by night.

L: How long will God protect us?

**P: God will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

*HYMN #49

"The God of Abraham Praise"

CALL TO CONFESSION

based on Romans 4:4-5

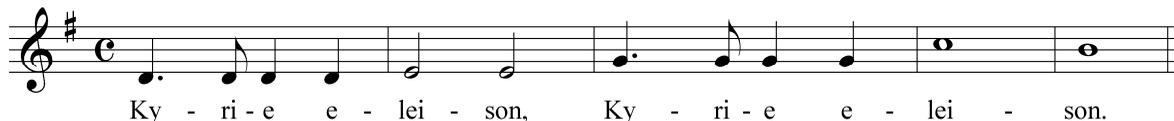
We cannot earn God's grace or favor.

It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given.

Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly,
we offer our confession in faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

refrain



(Kyrie eleison means "Lord, have mercy.")

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace.

refrain

**You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not.
We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.**

refrain

**We justify our actions and words,
though we know they are not what you require.
We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers,
preferring old habits to risky change.**

refrain

**Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to be born again into the life of Christ,
trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith.**

refrain

[We observe a time for silent confession]

refrain

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE** based on John 3:16-17

**L: God is for us and not against us!
For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

P: Thanks be to God!

L: Let us share our joy with one another with signs
of reconciliation and friendship.
May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

PARISH LIFE & CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

based on John 3:1-15

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again,
seeking understanding and the new life it offers.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds
so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. Amen.

WORD FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

BLESSING

based on 1 John 4:4, 7

Little children, you are from God...

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

*(Infants and small children are dismissed to the care of the nursery staff.
Older children are invited to remain and worship.)*

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

(NT p.)

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **P: Praise to you, O Christ.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 121

(OT p.)

L: The Word of the Lord **P: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A Sermon on Psalm 121

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #45

"I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (people read **bold**)

(The liturgist will pause at the ellipses, and you may say aloud any names or circumstances appropriate to the petition)

God our Helper,

we thank you for keeping our lives always in your care and protection
and pray for any and all who are in harm's way.

For those walking in the midst of danger . . .

For those who are treading a slippery path . . .

For those exhausted and seeking relief . . .

For those who face a mountain of worry or debt
or any other obstacles. . . .

Be Guardian and Guide, we pray,

setting all our feet on your paths of righteousness and peace.

We pray for those who are struggling with a new challenge or call . . .

With a major transition in life or livelihood . . .

With their faith and understanding . . .

With grief, ancient or new . . .

We ask your tender care and mercy, O God.

For those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit . . .

For those weighed down by depression or pain . . .

For those recuperating from surgery or accident. . . .

Protect not only us and those we love,

but also the whole wide world you so love.

In places of war, bring peace . . .

In places beset by natural disaster, bring calm and restoration . . .

Where there is unrest and injustice, make justice our aim.

Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights,

so that we may see hope beyond hope and life beyond death.

In the name of Christ,
who gave himself for our sake, and who taught us to pray

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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROUS GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

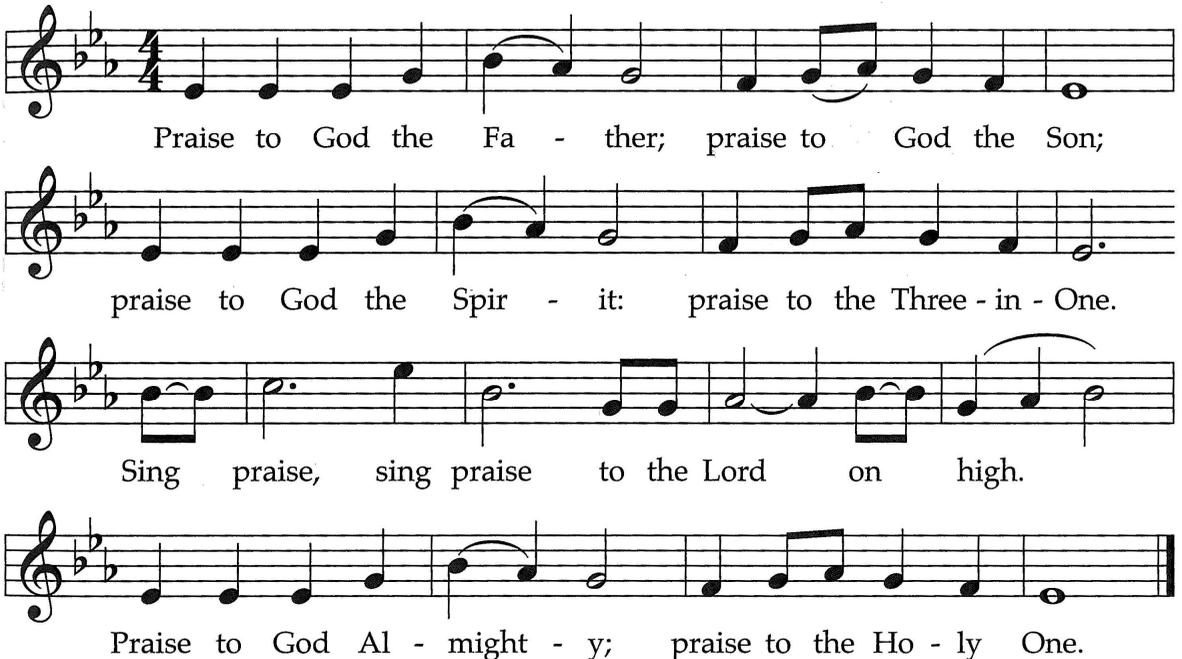
God So Loved the World

John Stainer

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son in to the world to condemn this world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

DOXOLOGY #605

“Praise to God the Father”



Praise to God the Fa - ther; praise to God the Son;
praise to God the Spir - it: praise to the Three - in - One.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Al - might - y; praise to the Ho - ly One.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*)**

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
but also ourselves, in deep gratitude –
for your call on our lives,
your guidance in the baptismal journey,
and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others.
Accept what we bring for your own good purposes.
In Christ we pray. Amen.

**We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts
And Bear It Into the World**

***HYMN #645** "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #227 "Jesus, Remember Me"
Sung three times



Je - sus re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Assisting in worship and hospitality today are:

Heidi Hall – *liturgist*

Claire Armbruster & Jeff Koontz – *greeters and refreshments*

Tom Byl and Chuck Cardona – *offering counters*

And next week:

Chris Leonard – *liturgist*

Michael Korak and Jack Henderson – *offering counters*

Children and Worship

The presence of children in worship is a gift to our church. We welcome them, wiggles and all. Families are encouraged to sit together in worship, at least through the children's message. After that, parents may take younger children (5 and under) to our nursery, staffed by loving caregivers. A greeter can direct you to the nursery. For faith development, we value older children (over 5) experiencing the entire worship service. To help, children's bulletins and activities to keep little hands occupied can be found outside in the narthex.

Our Ministries Last Week

Saturday Breakfast Ministry

130 people were served a nutritious, hot breakfast on October 15

11:00 Worship Service Attendance

Adults:64, Children:6

Tuesday Noon Bible Study

5 people gathered for lunch, fellowship, and Bible Study.

Wednesday Lunch Ministry

226 people enjoyed lunch in a warm and friendly environment.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund Assistance

13 people received assistance from the pastor's discretionary fund this week.

Visitors and Tourists

8 visitors came to view the sanctuary during the week.

Schedule of Weekly Events

Monday, March 13

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 1

Tuesday, March 14

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 1

12:00 Bible Study – Parlor 2

6:00 Finance, Administration & Personnel and Building & History committees – The Cookery

Wednesday, March 15

Noon Lunch served to Nashville's homeless and urban poor

Thursday, March 16

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 1

Friday, March 17

11:30 AA Meeting - Parlor 1

Saturday, March 18

8:30 Breakfast served to Nashville's homeless and urban poor

Sunday, March 19

9:00 Morning Brew
– Morning Brew Lounge

9:00 JuveNiles Rehearsal

9:45 Christian Education

9:45 Adult Choir rehearsal

11:00 Worship – the Sanctuary

2:00 Carol Howard Merritt book tour event
– The Sanctuary

Our Mission

Gathering in the heart of Nashville, we are a community of disciples of Jesus Christ. We seek the welfare of the city as we seek the kingdom of God. We are an historic church working to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation. Together we actively share God's grace and love through worship, education and service, and through being an active voice in promoting justice and peace in our community and the world.

Our Values and Ethos

We believe that every person is a beloved child of God.

Our welcome extends to everyone, whatever your economic circumstances, your faith background, your racial or ethnic identity, your sexual orientation or gender identity, or your political affiliations.

As a diverse community we seek to intentionally embody God's radically inclusive and transformative love for everyone. With love and grace, we are called as a community to grow together as a voice for justice and peace - each as we are, with our unique human stories of joy and struggle.

SESSION 2017

Rev. Mike Wilson, Moderator

Betsy Bahn, Clerk

Jeff Koontz, Treasurer

Class of 2017

Tom Byl
Michael Arwood
Ridley Wills II
Claire Armbruster

Class of 2018

Cary Gibson
Michael Korak

Class of 2019

Chuck Cardona
Jack Henderson
Justin Near

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mike Wilson, Pastor
Reginald Hughes, Office Manager
Suzie Lane, Children's Education Director

Paulino Jarquin, Facilities Manager
Dr. William Taylor, Organist/Choir Director

THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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(615) 254-7584; FAX (615) 254-4741
Where Passion Meets Action In Downtown Nashville!

Check us out at: www.dpchurch.com
or scan this QR code

