



DOWNTOWN
P R E S B Y T E R I A N

THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday, April 21, 2024

REFLECTIONS

To worship the LORD is — in the world's eyes — a waste of time. It is, indeed, a royal waste of time, but a waste nonetheless. By engaging in it, we don't accomplish anything useful in our society's terms.... Its purpose is not to gain numbers nor for our churches to be seen as successful. Rather, the entire reason for our worship is that God deserves it. Moreover, it isn't even useful for earning points with God, for what we do in worship won't change one whit how God feels about us. We will always still be helpless sinners caught in our endless inability to be what we should be or to make ourselves better — and God will always still be merciful, compassionate, and gracious, abounding in steadfast love and ready to forgive us as we come to him.

—Marva J. Dawn, *A Royal "Waste" of Time*

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

— Isaac Watts, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

For those who are hearing impaired:

Please switch to the "T", T-Coil, or telephone position on your hearing aid or cochlear device, in order to access our hearing loop. If you do not have a T-Coil, a receiver for our hearing assistance system and instructions for the FM+ system for smartphones is available at our sound booth.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

§ Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Psalm 111:2-5

§ Congregation
Standing

*Pastor: Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.*

All: Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

*Pastor: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.*

All: He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

§ Hymn of Adoration

Our Great God

WORDS &
MUSIC
Mac Powell and
Fernando Ortega

Eternal God, unchanging, mysterious and unknown.
Your boundless love unending, in grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight around your glorious throne.
They raise their voices day and night in praise to you alone.

*Refrain: Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!*

Lord, we are weak and frail, helpless in the storm.
Surround us with your angels, hold us in your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our Sovereign God. *(Refrain)*

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird;
Let every mountain, every field and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
Sing praises to the Living God, who rules them by his word. *(Refrain)*

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*If you are caring for
a child and need to
step out of the service
with him/her, feel free
to move to our lobby
or to the chapel on the
nursery hallway. The
service can be viewed
from both locations.*

Sacrament of Baptism

11:00 Service

Vincent David Bunn

Emma and Philip Bunn

Caleb Lucas Neumann

Amanda and Isaiah Neumann

Crawford Wright O'Connell

Pinckney and John O'Connell

Parental Vows:

1. Do you acknowledge your son's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your son to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

Declaring the Gospel to the Baptized Children:

For you Jesus Christ came into the world: for you he lived and showed God's love; for you he suffered the darkness of Calvary; for you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life; for you he ascended to reign at God's right hand. All this he did for you. Though you may not know it yet, we promise to tell you this good news.

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Silent Confession & General Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, you do not change. You have revealed yourself to us in your Word. You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth. But we confess that we often worship not your true self but who we wish you to be. We too often ask you to bless what we do rather than seeking to do what you bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want. Help us to meet you here, that we might bow before your unspeakable majesty and so live for you now and ever, in Christ. Amen.

Assurance of the Gospel

Isaiah 53:11-12

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

§ Hymn of the Gospel

Jesus, I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of my sickness into thy health, out of my wanting and into thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into thyself, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of thy cross, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm, out of life's storms and into thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of myself to dwell in thy love, out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to thee.

WORDS

William Sleeper,
1887

MUSIC

Greg Thompson,
2000

—
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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of thy home, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of thy sheltering fold,
Ever thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to thee.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

After the Lord's Prayer, preschoolers attending children's church are dismissed. Children may be picked up from the narthex during communion.

A GOSPEL STORY

Rev. Jeff Heiser

Please let your usher know the elements need to be brought to you.

The common cup and unmarked trays contain wine.

The crackers are gluten, nut, and dairy free.

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

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 the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sermon

Mark 14:3-9

³ And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. ⁴ There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that?" ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. ⁹ And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Pastor: Let us therefore proclaim the mystery of the faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Pastor: Now take this bread and this cup, remembering that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Prayers of Reflection for Those Not Partaking

- Prayer for Those Searching for Truth: *Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads me into the life you promise.*
- Prayer for Belief: *Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord.*

§ Hymn of Response

O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

§ Benediction

§ Dismissal

Pastor: Let us go out to serve our world and our city as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

WORDS

Michael Perry,
1982

MUSIC

Gustav Holst,
1918

—
©1982 Hope Publishing Co.

Announcement
of God's blessing
upon his people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan for a full list of upcoming
events and registrations.



Intro to DPC

APRIL 28 | 10AM | CHAPEL

Join us in the chapel for an overview of the history and mission of DPC with one of our Assistant Pastors, Jeff Heiser. This class is especially for newcomers, and is a helpful first step (but not required) for membership at Downtown Presbyterian. Registration is open on Church Center.

Joint Worship Service with Tabernacle Baptist Church

APRIL 28 | 5PM | 400 SOUTH HUDSON STREET

We have a new date for our joint worship service with our neighbors, Tabernacle Baptist Church! We look forward to worshipping with them on Sunday, April 28. Their minister, Rev. Byron Battle, will lead us in worship, and Brian Habig will preach. Childcare is not available for this service.

Foundations

MAY 4 | 9AM-3PM | 3RD FLOOR ADULT ED SPACE

If you're ready to pursue membership at DPC, sign up for our Foundations Class. You'll learn more about the history, vision, and mission of our church. Led by Brian Habig and DPC staff members. Coffee and lunch will be provided. Childcare is not available for this class. Registration is open on Church Center.



A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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