

# *Service of the Lord's Day, October 8, 2023*

## **Welcome!**

*Druid Hills Presbyterian Church  
calls everyone into Christian community to  
explore God's purpose for our lives,  
celebrate God's work in the world,  
and serve the needs of our neighbors.*

Family of God, masks are no longer required, but are welcome. Thank you for being considerate of the needs of each person and exercising caution, especially if you are not well or may expose others. Masks are available in the front and back of the sanctuary.

### **GOD GATHERS US AROUND THE WORD**

† *You are invited to stand when you see this symbol.*

**PRELUDE**

*In the Garden*

arr. Mark Hayes

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: We walk in wonder beneath the sun and stars*

**All: Creation is God's masterpiece, and we are blessed to share it.**

*We give thanks for the air, the land, and the water*

**and for all the creatures joined together in the web of life**

*Beauty is before us, around us, over us and beneath us*

**We join our hearts, minds, and spirits as one in thanks and awe.**

† **HYMN #611**

**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

**Hymn to Joy**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

## UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

**Creator God, you formed us of the dust of a precious blue marble floating through unfathomable space.**

**We are made from the dust of this holy orb, and to its dust we shall return.**

**Yet we act like we are not of its dust but are somehow outside of and above this planet we are so deeply connected to.**

**Forgive us, Earth, for forgetting who we are.**

**Forgive us our abuses of the prairie grass and the tree, the dodo and the California Grizzly Bear, the squash berry, the phlox moth, and the passenger pigeon, the whale, and the wolf.**

**Forgive us for clear-cutting your forests, for tearing down your mountains, for polluting you to extract fossil fuels and precious metals.**

**Forgive us for dumping our waste into your waters and for changing your climate for our convenience.**

**Teach us respect, merciful one, until we learn to live gently with creation, to stop demanding from it what we want, but to accept only what it offers, and do so with deep gratitude for your abundance of life and your stewardship of us. Amen.**

*(time for silent reflection)*

## POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Psalm 104](#)

p 555 NT

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## SERMON

“Lions and Tigers and Bears...”

Dr. Bill Brown

## † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Leader: Let us affirm our faith together.*

**All: We believe that God creates all things,  
renews all things and celebrates all things.**

*We believe Earth is a sanctuary,  
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,  
a home for us to share with our kin.*

**We believe that God became flesh and blood,  
became a piece of Earth,  
a human being called Jesus Christ,  
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,  
suffered and died on a cross,  
for all human beings and for all creation.**

*We believe that the risen Jesus  
is the Christ at the core of creation  
reconciling all things to God,  
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.*

**We believe the Spirit renews life in creation  
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,  
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.  
We believe that with Christ we will rise  
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

† HYMN #14

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Dix

For the beauty of the earth, | for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth | over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise | this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour, | of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower | sun and moon, and stars of light  
Lord of all, to thee we raise | this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine | to the world so freely given;  
For the great, great love of thine | peace on earth and joy in heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise | this our hymn of grateful praise.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS** — Consider supporting our ministries through an [online gift](#), or mail a check to Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30306. Offering and prayer/attendance cards may be placed in the stands at either end of the sanctuary.

**ANTHEM**

...  
*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* arr. Margaret Bonds

He's got the whole world in His hand.

He's got the wood and the waters in His hand; He's got the sun and the moon right in His hand;  
He's got the whole world in His hand.

He's got the birds and the bees right in His hand; He's got the beasts of the field right in His hand;  
He's got the whole world in His hand.

He's got you and me right in His hand; He's got everybody in His hand;  
He's got the whole world in His hand.

† **DOXOLOGY #15**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

Erfreuen

All creatures of our God and King; lift up your voice and with us sing.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O brother sun with golden beam; O sister moon with silver gleam,  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD**

† **BLESSING AND COMMITMENT CEREMONY**

*Leader: Now let us join together in a covenant of healing:*

**All: Today we join in a renewal of our covenant with God and with one another. Standing together as followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the healing and protection of God's creation. We commit to stand against all threats to life, and to resist all powers that would destroy it.**

**We commit to the discovery of some new beauty every day in God's creation: the sunrise and the sunset, the birds, flowers, trees, rainbows, stars, and the many forms of life that inhabit the earth.**

**We commit to listen to the animals as they try to teach us, the birds as they try to tell us, the plants of the earth and the fish of the sea as they declare to us their message of hope and healing for the world.**

**We will remember that God speaks to us through the beauty of God's good creation, and we will try our best to answer God's call to revere all that God has created.**

**May we, together with people everywhere, awaken and begin to co-create the foundation of a new world so that the future of all life on our planet and the future of human lifeways can be protected and healed.**

† **HYMN #623**

**I've Got Peace Like a River**

Spiritual

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain...

I've got love like an ocean...

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

*How Great Thou Art*

Joel Raney

.....

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Our guest preacher**, William P. Brown is the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. His writings explore the intersecting issues of ecology, justice, faith, and science from various biblical perspectives. He is the author of numerous essays and books, including *Wisdom's Wonder*, *The Seven Pillars of Creation*, *Seeing the Psalms*, *Sacred Sense*, *Handbook to Old Testament Exegesis*, and most recently *Deep Calls to Deep: The Psalms in Dialogue amid Disruption*. Much of his work is driven by the desire to promote dialogue among diverse participants to foster mutual understanding and equity. Bill is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and loves teaching Sunday School. He and Gail are the proud parents of two amazing daughters Ella and Hannah.

**Children of all ages are welcome in the sanctuary during worship.** Being present is how children learn to worship, so we welcome their wiggles and whispers. However, parents of small children may also drop off their Pre-K and younger kiddos in our nursery. We also hope children will take advantage of the PrayGround, which is in the back of the sanctuary and offers room to move, color, and participate in worship in a kid friendly spot.

**Assisted Listening Devices** are available from our ushers for any worshiper who needs hearing assistance.

**Interested in membership?** We are so grateful for the visitors (old and new) who add to our community each week. If you are interested in learning more about what it would look like to join, it's really easy; just talk with one of our pastors. They'll answer questions you may have about DHPC or Presbyterianism, and walk you through meeting our leadership and making your spot in our family official. Just let us know if this feels like the right step for you or if you are curious to learn more.

## PRAYERS

*If you have a prayer request you'd like to share with the congregation, please contact our prayer list coordinator Anne Soileau ([prayerlist@dhpc.org](mailto:prayerlist@dhpc.org)).*

### prayers for our DHPC community

**Jane Boyd Lee** is doing better! She is getting good physical therapy for her back and tries to stay active. She welcomes phone calls, visits and correspondence.

**Adam Ralls** is awaiting surgery for spinal stenosis.

**Betty Davis** has returned home from rehab after breaking her hip.

**Helen Woodside** has finished radiation and is in remission. She is so grateful for prayers, cards and phone calls.

**Isaree Patterson** had surgery. She thanks everyone for their prayers and all the concerns shown for her. She hopes to continue her recovery and be back with us soon.

**Santana Herrera** has received positive news, but is still undergoing medical tests to get to the root of his medical issues.

### prayers for our family and friends

**Richard Odom**, Cynthia Middleton's brother; **Brenda Robbins and Alan Baggett**, friends of Betty McIntosh; **Don and Dottie Nye**, former DHPC building manager and his wife (sister of Ivey Lois Hubert); **Allie Day and her family**, friend of Jane Weir; **Sara Torres**, friend of Adam Ralls; **Rev. Brice Graves**, friend of

Susan Hagood; **Kathy Moore**, friend of the Armstrongs; **Sam Steger**, friend of Susan Hagood; **Joan Smith**, sister of Linda and Betty Davis; **Carlin and Tony La Spisa**, friends of May DeWees; **Adella and Chuck Harter and their daughter Heather**, May DeWees' sister and her family; **Tracy and her mother, Charlotte**, friends of Susan Hagood; **Indira Parekh**, friend of Anne Townsley; **the family of Margaret Boulware**, friend of Vivian Hodo; **Kate Pierce**, sister of Marlene Slavich; **Gwen Davies**, friend of Susan Rutherford; **Shannon Dodd and family**, friends of the Soileau Acton family; **Chelsea Walker**, daughter of Letia Henson; **Tim O'Farrell and Brent Yountz**, friends of Donna Durden; **Barbara Bybee**, cousin of Robert Welborn; **Ann Mertens**, friend of Carol and Ken Wideman; **Meghan Harter and newborn Joseph**, friends of Susan Hagood; **Anne Dukes**, mother-in-law of Jane Weir's son; **Connie Finn**, sister of Cliff Frierson; and **Cindy Woodside**, daughter-in-law of Helen Woodside, **Billy Smith**, friend of Robert Welborn, **Olivia Carlisle**, friend of May Dewees, has been on our prayer list and is now free from pancreatic cancer and ran the 2023 Peachtree Road Race.

## WEEKLY UPDATE

### Sunday, October 8

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*  
*Roundtable Adult Education Class*
- 11:00 AM – *Outdoor Earth Care Worship*  
*with Dr. Bill Brown*
- 12:00 PM – *Serving Lunch at Mercy Church*

### Monday, October 9

- 6:30 PM – *Fall Online Book Study*

### Tuesday, October 10

- 10:30 AM – *Online Presbyterian Women - Day Circle*
- 7:15 PM – *Online Presbyterian Women - Evening Circle*

### Wednesday, October 11

- 6:15 PM – *Handbells Rehearsal*
- 7:30 PM – *Choir Rehearsal*

### Sunday, October 15

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*  
*Roundtable Adult Education Class*
- 10:00 AM – *Community Recycling Day*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship*
- 11:30 AM – *Rise Against Hunger*

### RISE AGAINST HUNGER

#### Next Sunday, October 15, 11:30AM; Parlor

Once again DHPC is joining together to fight hunger through a meal packing event organized by Rise Against Hunger, an international hunger relief organization that distributes life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable. In previous years DHPC members and friends have had a great time as they joined together to package slightly more than 10,000 meals! This year's packing event will take place in the Parlor following a short casual worship service in the sanctuary. We hope you will make plans to join us for this year's event and bring a friend to join you! Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/DHPCRiseAgainstHunger!>

### RISE AGAINST HUNGER: SET-UP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

#### Next Sunday, October 15, 10AM

To have Rise Against Hunger be a success, we need some (awesome) volunteers to help prepare the Parlor for the event. If one of your spiritual gifts is carrying heavy things and setting them down, then this is the perfect opportunity for you! All ages are welcome! Email Pastor Elizabeth ([eacton@dhpc.org](mailto:eacton@dhpc.org)) to volunteer.

## **RISE AGAINST HUNGER “BRING A FRIEND” RAFFLE**

**Next Sunday, October 15, 11:30AM; Parlor**

Do you know people? Is there one or two that you like? If so, invite them to participate in DHPC's awesome Rise Against Hunger event! All DHPCCers who bring a friend (or even a DHPCCer we haven't seen in a while!) will be inserted into a raffle to win a gift basket filled with tasty goodies.

## **COMMUNITY RECYCLING DAY: STYROFOAM, BOOKS, ELECTRONICS, PAINT, & CHEMICALS**

**Next Sunday, October 15, 10 - 10:55 AM**

As our last recycling day of the year, the Mission Team is accepting a hodgepodge of hard to recycle materials. As always, collected items will be taken to the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM). Items for recycling should be dry and not leaking. A DHPC representative will be in the front parking lot to collect recyclables. For more info on what is accepted, visit [livethrive.org/charm/items-we-accept/](http://livethrive.org/charm/items-we-accept/). Contact Elizabeth Acton ([eacton@dhpc.org](mailto:eacton@dhpc.org)) with any questions.

## **“TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION HOME” COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, October 19, 5:30 - 7:30pm**

The Mission Team is excited to host a workshop for our VaHi (and beyond) neighbors. The workshop, taught by Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, will share information about energy efficiency and solar power options, as well as information about Inflation Reduction Act benefits for individual homeowners. DHPC members and friends are encouraged to attend to welcome our neighbors. In addition, Anne Townsley is arranging potluck snacks for guests. If you would like to contribute, please contact Anne ([anne.townsley314@gmail.com](mailto:anne.townsley314@gmail.com)). Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend this exciting workshop. Childcare will be provided. Contact Pastor Elizabeth ([eacton@dhpc.org](mailto:eacton@dhpc.org)) with any questions.

## **SAVE THE DATE: DHPC FALL RETREAT...IN THE WINTER**

**January 19 - 21, 2024**

Be sure to mark your calendars for DHPC's first retreat since Covid! We will be heading to Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, NC (near Asheville) for a wonderful weekend of rest, nature, and fellowship. Stay tuned for more information!

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN DAY AND NIGHT CIRCLE MEETINGS**

**Tuesday, October 10, 10:30 AM and 7:15 PM**

All women are invited to attend our Presbyterian Women (PW) Day and/or Night Circle meetings for Bible Study, prayer, and fellowship. At this time, we are continuing to meet virtually on Zoom. For more information about the PW, talk with Moderator Carol Wideman or Vice Moderator Coby Armstrong.

## **PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING**

Last Sunday, we received the Peace and Global Witness Offering. This annual offering enables the church to address systems of injustice across the world. The Mission Team has selected Memorial Drive Ministries to be the recipient of the 25% of this offering that stays in local communities. MDM works to ease the experience of refugees when they enter the Clarkston, GA community. If you were unable to contribute last week, there's still time! Simply place your offering marked "Peace and Global Witness" in the containers at either sanctuary exit or give online via the DHPC website. Be sure to select Special Offering as the fund.

## **INTOWN CARES: MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS**

The Intown Cares Pantry works to reduce the impact of food insecurity for Atlantans living in DHPC's neighborhood and beyond. Whenever you can, grab a few extra items, especially this week: **Ramen noodles, shelf stable milk, pasta & pasta sauce, fruit cups, SPAM, canned fruit, instant oatmeal/grits, bottled water, tuna packets, canned poptop veggies, instant coffee, canned meats, peanut butter & jelly, canned soup (not condensed), cereal.**



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## FOUR WAYS TO SUPPORT DHPC

- 1. Make a donation with your smartphone!**  
Text “DHPC \$\_\_\_ (the amount you want to give)” to 73256 to give using your text messaging. You will receive response with a link to the giving portal. Standard text message rates do apply.
- 2. Give online** at [tinyurl.com/DHPCoffering](https://tinyurl.com/DHPCoffering). You may make a one-time gift or set up recurring payments.
- 3. Mail a check to the church** at 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE; Atlanta, GA 30306.
- 4. In-person:** Drop your offering in one of the offering boxes near the doors.

*We share the following welcome statement from Brentwood Christian Church with their permission:*

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here:

If you are young or old, you are welcome

If you believe in God some of the time or none of the time or all of the time, you are welcome

If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin, or any color of skin, you are welcome

You are welcome here

If you are married or single, you are welcome

Come with your gifts, your pain, your hope, your fears

If you are gay or straight, you are welcome

Come with the traditions that have helped you and hurt you

If you are transgender, you are welcome

Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you

If you are a man or a woman, you are welcome

Come with a mind, ready to engage, and a heart, open to discern

If you cannot hear or see, you are welcome

Come and listen for the Sacred Spirit that calls you to love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice, create peace and practice compassion

If you are sick or well, you are welcome

If you are happy or sad, you are welcome

If you are rich or poor, powerful or weak, you are welcome

## You are welcome here!

### CHURCH STAFF

Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer, [rmeyer@dhpc.org](mailto:rmeyer@dhpc.org)  
 Pastor for Engagement: Rev. Elizabeth Soileau Acton, [eacton@dhpc.org](mailto:eacton@dhpc.org)  
 Interim Director of Music, Paula Broughton, [pbroughton@dhpc.org](mailto:pbroughton@dhpc.org)  
 Organist: Cliff Frierson, [cfrierson@dhpc.org](mailto:cfrierson@dhpc.org)  
 Director, Handbell Choir: Denise Huewitt  
 Facilities Manager: Mike Williams, [mwilliams@dhpc.org](mailto:mwilliams@dhpc.org)  
 Communications and Hospitality Manager: Nate Baughman, [nbaughman@dhpc.org](mailto:nbaughman@dhpc.org)

### DEACONS

Susan Hagood, Marlene Slavich, Anne Soileau, Susan Rutherford

### THE SESSION MINISTRY TEAMS AND CHAIRS

Christian Education: Gigi Muirheid  
 Finance: Betty McIntosh  
 Mission: Anne Townsley  
 Personnel: Pete McGuire  
 Worship: Bob Beard  
 Property and Administration: Betty Davis  
 Clerk of the Session: Eric Dusenbury  
 Treasurer: Linda Davis

*Elder Emerita:*  
Cecile McRae Hooks

### **Druid Hills Presbyterian Church**

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