



***Service of the Lord's Day, January 14, 2024***

***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**

*Preludium*

Francois Dandrieu

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: Turn us, O God,*

**All: away from the world's temptations and distractions.**

*Return us, O God,*

**to the quiet calm of your presence.**

*Restore us, O God,*

**to the path you call us to follow.**

*Orient us, O God,*

**to the hope of all that is possible through you.**

† **HYMN #409**

*God Is Here!*  
Verses 1, 2, & 4

Abbot's Leigh

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS**

**God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy.**

**You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless.**

**But we, who benefit from your grace, do not emulate you and your ways.**

**We are quick to condemn,**

**exaggerate critique,**

**and act mercilessly.**

**We confess the ways we demean and dehumanize others.**

**We pray for your forgiveness.**

(time for silent reflection)

**POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

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

## SERMON

Dr. Mitzi J. Smith

“The Injustice of Exclusion and the Justice of Recognizing the Humanity of the Othered”

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

## † HYMN

*Love Lifted Me*

Safety

**I was sinking deep in sin, | Far from the peaceful shore,  
Very deeply stained within, | Sinking to rise no more;  
But the Master of the sea | Heard my despairing cry,  
From the waters lifted me— | Now safe am I.**

**Refrain:**

**Love lifted me, | Love lifted me,  
When nothing else could help, | Love lifted me;  
Love lifted me, | Love lifted me,  
When nothing else could help, | Love lifted me.**

**All my heart to Him I give, | Ever to Him I'll cling,  
In His blessed presence live, | Ever His praises sing.  
Love so mighty and so true | Merits my soul's best songs;  
Faithful, loving service, too, | To Him belongs. [Refrain]**

**Souls in danger, look above, | Jesus completely saves;  
He will lift you by His love | Out of the angry waves.  
He's the Master of the sea, | Billows His will obey;  
He your Savior wants to be— | Be saved today. [Refrain]**

## † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves  
and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

## **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.**

**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.

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**Thank you** to the DHPC Session! Each month, and sometimes more often, the members of our leadership board (who are listed at the bottom of your bulletin) gather to assure that DHPC continues to function well financially, communally, and spiritually. We are grateful for their often unglamorous service to the church and God.

**Earth Stewardship Invitation:** There may seem to be less incentive to be outdoors during the winter, but having a more positive outlook towards it leads to a lifetime of wonderful winter activity. It's about embracing winter for what it is and steering away from the negativity. Redirect conversations about the "horrors" of winter to the opportunities and benefits of the season instead.

## **ANTHEM**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth* arr. Sy Miller and Jill Jackson  
DHPC Handbell Choir  
Denise Willingham-Huewitt, *Director*

† **DOXOLOGY #607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

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

† **HYMN #757** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* Kingsfold

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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## WORSHIP NOTES

**We are grateful to have Dr. Mitzi J. Smith, the J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, leading us in worship this morning.** Dr. Smith earned a Ph.D. in Religion (specializing in New Testament) from Harvard University, a M.Div. from Howard University School of Divinity, and a M.A. from The Ohio State University. Smith's ten book publications include *Chloe and Her People: A Womanist Critical Dialogue with First Corinthians*; *We are All Witnesses: Toward Disruptive and Creative Biblical Interpretation* (co-authored with Michael Newheart); and *Bitter the Chastening Rod. Africana Biblical Interpretation After Stony the Road We Trod in the Time of BLM, SayHerName, and MeToo* (co-edited w/Angela Parker and Ericka Dunbar). She hosts the *Beyond the Womanist Classroom* podcast and is a contributor to [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org).

**Our bulletin image today** is titled "Rachel, Shumi, and their dog in Zimbabwe, 2020" and comes from John Hewat of CARE. CARE is an organization that seeks a world of hope, inclusion, and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and all people live with dignity and security. The original image can be found here: <https://www.care.org/news-and-stories/news/international-day-of-the-dog/>

**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 of condolence**

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Bob Battaglin, Karin and Eric Dusenbury, and their family** following the death of **Joan Battaglin**, beloved wife and mother. Joan died peacefully on Tuesday, January 2. Memorial service arrangements are not yet decided at this time. Notes of sympathy can be sent to Bob at 2711 Lawrenceville Hwy #110, Decatur, GA 30033 and Karin at 340 Candler Park Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30307.

### prayers for our DHPC community

**Jack McFarland** is at home recovering from pneumonia.

**Henry Benk**

**Betty Davis** is now happily home and grateful for continued prayers.

**May DeWees** is home now.

**Jane Weir** requests prayers that a new medication will clear a severe skin rash.

### prayers for our family and friends

**Richard Odom**, Cynthia Middleton's brother; **Brenda Robbins and Alan Baggett**, friends of Betty McIntosh; **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; the family of **Chuck Harter**, brother-in-law of May DeWees; **Carlin and Tony La Spisa**, friends of May DeWees; **Tracy and her mother, Charlotte**, friends of Susan Hagood; **Joan Gravely**, friend of Vivian Hodo; **Shannon Dodd and family**, friends of the Soileau Acton family; **Chelsea Walker**, daughter of Letia Henson; **Tim O'Farrell**, friend 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; **Connie Finn**, sister of Cliff Frierson; **Cindy Woodside**, daughter-in-law of Helen Woodside; and **Alfred Corneilus**, friend of Robert Welborn.

## WEEKLY UPDATE

### **Sunday, January 14**

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*  
*Roundtable Adult Education Class*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship*
- 1:00 PM – *Frozen Sing-Along at the Plaza*

### **Monday, January 15**

- All Day – *Office Closed for MLK Holiday*

### **Wednesday, January 17**

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

### **Friday, January 19 - Sunday, January 21**

- All Day – *Congregational Retreat at Montreat, NC*

### **Sunday, January 21**

- 9:30 PM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*  
*Roundtable Adult Education Class*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship*

## **DHPC HOSTS *FROZEN* AT THE PLAZA THEATRE**

**Today, 1PM**

DHPC is hosting a free screening of *Frozen: Sing Along* at the Plaza Theatre. News of this event caused many gasps of joy at Winterfest, so we hope to have a good crowd. Join us for the fun and be present to tell our neighbors about our great church.

## **STYROFOAM & BOOK RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY**

**Sunday, January 21, 10 - 10:55 AM**

After gifts are exchanged, piles of trash are likely left behind on your living room floor. To find out how to responsibly dispose of that pile, visit <https://tinyurl.com/DHPCxmasrecycle>. One thing that can't go in curbside recycling is styrofoam, but the Mission Team is here to help. Bring your styrofoam, big or small, to DHPC and Mission Team members will recycle it for you. No packing peanuts or styrofoam containers with food remnants, please. We will also be accepting unwanted books that are unable to be donated (ex: yearbooks, outdated textbooks and encyclopedias, beat-up paperbacks, etc..) Steve and Cathie Magnan-Power will be in the Ponce parking lot to receive your recyclables. Contact Pastor Elizabeth with questions ([eacton@dhpc.org](mailto:eacton@dhpc.org)).

## **GUEST PREACHER NEXT WEEK**

**Sunday, January 21**

Next week our congregation will be worshipping in two locations. A group of DHPChers will spend the weekend in Montreat, NC at our congregational retreat. There will also be our regular Sunday morning service in the sanctuary. Rev. Nibs Stroupe, retired pastor of Oakhurst Presbyterian in Decatur, will be leading worship in the sanctuary. However you join us, we look forward to worshipping with you.

## **CONGREGATIONAL SMALL GROUPS**

**February through March**

The PNC is asking for volunteers to host a small group (6-7 total) meeting with Pastor Renee and members of our congregation during February or the first two weeks of March. The meeting can be at your home, at a restaurant or coffee shop, or at the church. It can be morning coffee, lunch, dinner, or afternoon tea – whatever you prefer. We have two hosts lined up and would like to have at least 5 more. Sign up to host via the sign-up sheets in the sanctuary or by contacting Betty McIntosh (404-307-6142, [betty@bettymcintosh.com](mailto:betty@bettymcintosh.com)). More information about joining a group will be available soon.

## **GEORGIA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT SUMMIT**

**Saturday, February 3, 2024; Oak Grove United Methodist Church**

GIPL invites you to attend their annual Green Team Summit where faithful environmentalists will gather for a time of fellowship and shared learning. Participants will learn practical insights for cultivating climate resilience in local communities and building a resilient democracy by advocating for environmentally just policies. Tickets are \$30 and lunch, coffee, and light snacks will be provided. (See Pastor Elizabeth for scholarships.) For more information visit <http://tinyurl.com/GIPLWorkshop>

## **PRESBYTERIANS FOR A BETTER GA ONLINE ADVOCACY TRAINING**

**Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 PM**

Join Presbyterians for a Better Georgia (PBG) for their annual Advocacy Training. This online training will help participants understand the issues that are before the state legislature this session and learn how to effectively speak up to shape Georgia's policies. PBG focuses on advocating for policies that are consistent with the ministries of PC(USA) churches (mental health care services, affordable housing; and eradicating homelessness). Learn more and register at [www.p4bg.org/events](http://www.p4bg.org/events).

## 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, utensil packets, 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](http://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.

### CHURCH STAFF

Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Renée 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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