



Service of the Lord's Day, December 10, 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 *Comfort, Comfort These My People* Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF 2nd ADVENT CANDLE: *John the Baptist* Chris Escobar

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 96

Leader: *A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon:
a solitary star before sunrise
glimmers a promise of dawn
at the end of the world's blight.*

All: **It is the light of the World,
"Emmanuel" (God-with-us),
the Promised One.
Come to us, Emmanuel!
We have seen your light
and gather here
awaiting the day of your coming.**

† **OPENING HYMN #140** *Once in Royal David's City*

Irby

ORGAN DEDICATION

*All things come from you, O Lord
And from your own gifts do we give to you.
Prosper the work of our hands;
Prosper our handiwork.*

*Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to
make offerings for your service and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with
us now and bless us as we set apart this organ to your praise and glory; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

*For the gift of music: for melodies that echo the harmonies of heaven, for voices
transcending time and space, united in the glory of your name:*

We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For instruments of praise: for trumpet, lute, and harp, for strings and pipes, drum
and bells, for loud crashing cymbals.*

We give you thanks, O Lord.

*For the sounds of Worship: for words spoken, sung, and chanted, for prayers voiced
twice in song, for silence to hear your still, small voice:*

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who build and play the instruments of praise: for metal hammered into pipes, for wood that channels breath, for bellows brimmed with willing air, for feet that tread out melody and hands that dance, keyed to the music of the spheres:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

To the glory of almighty God, author of all goodness and beauty, giver of all skill of mind and hand:

We dedicate this organ.

O Lord, before whose throne trumpets sound, and saints and angels sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb: accept this organ for the worship of your temple, that with the voice of music we may proclaim your praise and tell it abroad, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

FIRST LESSON

[Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19](#)

God's Care of the First Humans

Tim Harper

p 3 HB

CAROL

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Frank C. Butcher

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly minded; for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth, from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

SECOND LESSON

[Genesis 22:15-18](#)

*God promises that, through Abraham,
all the peoples of the world will be blessed*

Olivia Escobar

p 18 HB

† CAROL #82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

THIRD LESSON

[Isaiah 9:2, 6-7](#)

*The people who walk in darkness
receive the promise of the Messiah*

Davis Acton

p 638 HB

† CAROL #127

Jesus, the Light of the World

Walk in the Light

FOURTH LESSON

[Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9](#)

*The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse
to restore the peace of creation*

William Edmisten

p 640-1 HB

CAROL*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Martin Ellis

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel;
 That mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O thou wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
 To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain.*

O come, O come great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
 In ancient times once gave the law, in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain.*

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of they people be;
 Before thee rulers silent fall, all peoples on thy mercy call. *Refrain.*

FIFTH LESSON[Luke 1:26-35. 38](#)

Ellie McFarland

*An angel appears to Mary and announces
 that she will bear a holy child*

p 56-7 NT

† **CAROL #98***To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary*

Annunciation

SIXTH LESSON[Luke 2:1-7](#)

Meredith Starks

*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem,
 where Mary gives birth to her child*

p 58 NT

CAROL*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*

arr. Donald Moore

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy and they say that his name was Jesus.

Chorus:

*He come from the glory; He come from the glorious kingdom.
 Oh, yes, believer! He come from the glory; He come from the glorious kingdom.*

The Angels sang when the baby was born and they say that His name was Jesus! (*Chorus*)

The wise men saw where the baby was born and they say that His name was Jesus! (*Chorus*)

SEVENTH LESSON[Luke 2:8-16](#)

Aiden Escobar

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields
 and announce the birth of the Messiah*

p 58 NT

CAROL*Gloria*

Antonio Vivaldi

Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Translation: Glory be in the highest to God!

EIGHTH LESSON[Matthew 2:1-11](#)

Ebony Collier

*Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah
 and offer gifts to the baby Jesus*

p 2 NT

CAROL*Good News, the Savior is Born!*

Glenn L. Jones

Jesus was born in Bethlehem without the virgin Mary knowing a man.
Refrain: Ain't a dat good news, my Lawd; Ain't a dat good news, good news!
 He laid in a manger filled with hay; Oh what a wonderful Christmas day!
Refrain: Ain't a dat good news, my Lawd; Ain't a dat good news, good news!

The wise men came to see the Child, he grew up lowly, meek and mild. *Refrain.*
He healed the sick and raised the dead, he fed five thousand with fish and bread. *Refrain.*

Chorus:
Good news, my Lawd; Ain't a dat good news! Hallelujah, glory!
Good news, the Savior's born! Good news, my Lawd!
Christ was born to set me free; paid the price on Calvary.
Good news, My Lawd; ain't a dat good news, good news!

Verse 1: The Savior's born in Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, the Precious Lamb. He is the King of glory!
Verse 2: The Savior's born down in-a my soul; he picked me up and made me whole; I've got to tell of Emmanuel!

NINTH LESSON

[John 1:1-14](#)

Susan Rutherford

*The Word of God becomes flesh
and lives among us, full of grace and truth*

p 91-2 NT

† **CAROL #133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

OFFERTORY

Medley for Christmas
DHPC Handbell Choir
Denise Willingham-Huewitt, *director*

arr. Ralph Hunter

† **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

God Rest Ye Merry

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow, on eve - ry hill and coast! Praise
God a - bove, all an - gels who com - prise the heaven - ly host! Praise
to the Fa - ther and the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost! O
tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy! O
ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

† **CLOSING HYMN #119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

† **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Paul Manz

WORSHIP NOTES

We are grateful to have special musicians leading us in worship today. Thank you to our staff singers Michelle Jarrell, soprano; Johnetta Tillman, soprano; Shala Jenkins, soprano; Selina Madison, alto; Ebony Collier, alto; Meredith Starks, alto; Oshae Young, tenor; Tim Harper, tenor; Allen Robinson, bass; and a special thanks to guest musicians Portia Hawkins, piano; Yvonne Toll Schneider, trumpet; and John Bryant, trumpet.

Today's Bulletin image, *Prophecy*, artist Hannah Garrity was "inspired by waters meeting one another. This intersecting flow portrays Zechariah's words meeting John the Baptist's life. It is a crashing toward, a central meeting place, a potential energy meeting a kinetic being."

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).

prayers of celebration

We give thanks to God for the birth of **Rhys Sinclair Merceron**, son of **Tyler and Lauren Merceron and little brother of Grayson and Kai**. Rhys was born on November 22 and both he and Lauren are doing well.

prayers for our DHPC community

Thomas Jones, DHPC's beloved security guard, has tested positive for stage 2 prostate cancer. Thomas' PET scan showed that the cancer has spread to the pelvic lymph nodes. He will have surgery on December 18 for prostate and lymph node removal. Thomas appreciates our prayers and love.

Adam Ralls is awaiting surgery for spinal stenosis. Adam received an epidural for pain on Monday, which has worked remarkably well.

Betty Davis spent a few days in the hospital to clear up an infection. She is now happily home and grateful for continued prayers.

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

May DeWees is home now after an admission to Piedmont Hospital late Sunday, November 5. She appreciates our prayers.

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; **Carl 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; **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; **Rhea Hannah**, dear friend and former member of DHPC; and **Alfred Corneilus**, friend of Robert Welborn.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Sunday, December 10

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*
Roundtable Adult Education Class
- 11:00 AM – *Lessons and Carols Worship with Chancel and Bell Choirs*
- 12:00 PM – *Extended Table Home Communion*
- 12:00 PM – *Serving Lunch at Mercy*

Tuesday, December 12

- 10:30 AM – *Presbyterian Women In-Person Christmas Communion Service & Lunch*

Wednesday, December 13

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

Sunday, December 17

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

HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE?

We are in the midst of attempting to put together our budget for 2024. If you have already turned in your pledge card, thank you! There are extra pledge cards available in the pews and at the back of the sanctuary. If you were waiting for an online form, you can use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/DHPCStewardship23>. Thank you for everything you do to make DHPC the loving place that it is.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24: Musical Prelude, 4:30PM; Worship, 5PM

Join us on Christmas Eve for a lovely service that will begin with a musical prelude featuring the DHPC choirs and special musicians. Following the prelude we will celebrate with hope and anticipation as, through our Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service, we await the birth of Christ. Bring your whole family or come alone and worship with your church family. All are welcome! **(Note: There will be NO morning worship service.)**

JOY OFFERING

Next Sunday, December 17, 11AM & Sunday, December 24, 5PM

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem to celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, a denominational special offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges by equipping students of color. Gifts to the Joy Offering may be made online at www.dhpc.org. Simply click "Give Online," choose your preferred payment method, and select "Special Offering" as the fund. You may also give in person by writing "Joy Offering" in the memo line on your check. Contact Pastor Elizabeth with questions (eacton@dhpc.org). Thank you for your generosity!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN DAY AND NIGHT CIRCLE COMBINED MEETING

Tuesday, December 12, 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM, Parlor

All women are invited to attend our combined Presbyterian Women (PW) Day and Night Circle annual PW Christmas Communion service which will be led by Rev. Dr. Renée Meyer. This will be a time of communion, prayer, lunch, and fellowship. Everyone should bring their own drink and meal, as well as cookies to swap with each other. Note: Because of the ongoing pandemic, we will also have a Zoom link for those who cannot attend in person. For more information or to get the Zoom link, contact Carol Wideman or Coby Armstrong.

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT!

Today, Before and After Worship

Join us for the congregation retreat at Montreat in the beautiful North Carolina Mountains, about 4 hours from Atlanta. Pastor Renee will lead us in a morning program where we reflect on how we can build God's realm on earth. There will be plenty of free time for fellowship, crafts, hiking, worship, campfire and songs, and more! To officially register for the retreat, see Pastor Elizabeth. The cost of the retreat is \$245 per person for a single room or \$165 per person for a shared room. (Registration for children is \$40.) This covers lodging, 4 meals, and all program costs. To pay your registration fee, visit www.dhpc.org, click "Give Online," click on your preferred payment method, and select "Church Retreat" as the fund. For financial assistance or any questions, contact Pastor Elizabeth (eacton@dhpc.org).

OFFICE CLOSED/PASTORAL CARE THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1

The church office will be closed from Christmas Day to New Year's Day as the staff celebrates the holidays with their loved ones. Pastor Elizabeth is on call for pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at 404-401-7766.

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.**

.....

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. 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
Pastor for Engagement: Rev. Elizabeth Soileau Acton, eacton@dhpc.org
Interim Director of Music, Paula Broughton, pbroughton@dhpc.org
Organist: Cliff Frierson, cfrierson@dhpc.org
Director, Handbell Choir: Denise Huewitt
Facilities Manager: Mike Williams, mwilliams@dhpc.org
Communications and Hospitality Manager: Nate Baughman, 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

1026 Ponce de Leon Ave NE Atlanta, GA 30306 | 404.875.7591 | www.dhpc.org
Music is used by permission and reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710585
and CCLI #11358326 (copyright license) and #11358326 (streaming license)