



## ***Service of the Lord's Day, December 17, 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.



# POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Luke 1: 24-45](#)

p 56-57 NT

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

#### SERMON

“Finding Joy When We are Weary to the Bone”

Preacher

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A Sanctified Art*

**We believe that joy is a sacred gift,  
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,  
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.**

**We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.  
Joy is meant to be shared,  
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.**

**And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,  
we believe that part of being sacred community  
is leaning on one another.**

**So together we say:  
I will share my joy when yours runs out.  
You will share your joy when mine runs out.  
And in doing so, we will both see God.  
Amen.**

### 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.

### MINUTE FOR MISSION: CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Eric Dusenbury

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**We give thanks for our connectional system as Presbyterians. We appreciate the people at Presbyterian Disaster Assistance who will help our campus begin to process the trauma experienced this week by being on site this Wednesday. We also give thanks for the diligent efforts of the APD to locate and arrest the perpetrator of the violence on our campus.**

**Earth Stewardship Invitation:** Resist buying people random things as Christmas gifts. Instead of new socks, candles, or a pillow shaped like their cat's head, consider making donations in a loved one's name, baking them a tasty treat, or taking them on a picnic or hike.

**ANTHEM**

*A Canticle for Advent*

Marty Schafer

Every people, every land, see the fading of the light; all the hopes and dreams of faith disappear beyond our sight.  
All the love and promise of the story goes unheard; and a world in darkness seeks in vain a hopeful word.

In the silence of our need, deep the longing in our hearts; For a way to free the world from its bitter emptiness.  
All around us sighing, troubled hearts with no relief. "Is there none to help us? Cry they out with tears of grief.

Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel. And ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Come to us, O God of love. Come to us and be our light! Give the vision that we seek, come anew, refresh our sight!  
Show your loving promise in the story that we tell; So that every people find their true Emmanuel.  
Oh, come! Rejoice!

† **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!

# BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN #132

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

In Dulci Jubilo

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World! With Psalm 19*

Arr. by Linda McKechnie

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## WORSHIP NOTES

**Our Advent series**, “How Does a Weary World Rejoice,” is an exploration in holding the two contrasting emotions of weariness and joy together. Using the Gospel of Luke and interweaving the birth of Christ with the parallel of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist, the creators of the series “saw the full scope of human emotions: isolation, fear, disbelief, as well as connection, trust, and joy. We acknowledged that the Christmas season is often an emotionally-charged time when we feel many things deeply—sometimes all at once.” So, this Advent, we hold space for our weariness *and* our joy. In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice. All materials copyright A Sanctified Art LLC [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

**Today's bulletin image** is *Two Mothers*, by Nicolette Peñaranda. She says that she “felt instantly connected to paying homage to Frida Kahlo's *Two Fridas*. Rather than being connected from veins of the heart, Mary and Elizabeth would be connected through the uterus... While Elizabeth is crowned with holy gray hair and a dress marked with the blood of previous miscarriages, Mary sits next to her holding a childhood doll, draped in the jewelry, flowers, and silks of a traditional Middle Eastern Jewish bride. Their stories and experiences are vastly different. But Mary sought out her kin. This reminds me that we do not need to do the hard things alone. There is power in connection.”

**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 love and prayers of the congregation are extended to **Mercy Community Church** following the tragic loss of their community member **Jason** following an incident of gun violence on campus on Monday. We pray with and for all those who loved Jason, as well as all those affected by the scourge of gun violence in this country.



### 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** continues to do well after a recent hospitalization

**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 but continues to need our prayers.

**Jack McFarland** has been in the hospital since December 5 with pneumonia.

### 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; **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; **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 17**

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*  
*Roundtable Adult Education Class*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship*
- 12:00 PM – *Sandwich Ministry*  
*Session Standing Meeting*

### **Wednesday, December 20**

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

### **Sunday, December 24**

#### **No Morning Worship**

- 4:30 PM – *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude*
- 5:00 PM – *Candlelight Worship Service with Communion*

## **HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE?**

Stewardship is recognizing that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God, and sharing those gifts. Stewardship of our time and talents and resources is our opportunity to “live into” our faith and to manifest our values and beliefs. It is our opportunity to give back the many blessings we have enjoyed. Please give with gratitude and joy!

We are budgeting for 2024 and your Stewardship pledge is important. Please complete a pledge card for 2024 and submit/mail it to Linda Davis at the church address (1026 Ponce de Leon ve., Atlanta, GA 30306). You may also email her at [treasurer@dhpc.org](mailto:treasurer@dhpc.org). Or you may pledge online at <http://tinyurl.com/DHPCStewardship24>.

## **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**

**Today & 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](http://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](mailto:eacton@dhpc.org)). Thank you for your generosity!

## **ROUNDTABLE SUNDAY SCHOOL: NO CLASS 12/24 OR 12/31**

There will be no Roundtable Sunday school on Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31. We are grateful to Pete McGuire for his dedication to leading this class and wish him a couple wonderful weeks and rest and joy on the ski slopes. Class will return on Sunday, January 7.

## **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.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, January 7, After Worship**

We will be having a congregational meeting after worship on January 7 to approve the terms of the call for Pastor Renée and to elect our elders.

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

**Sunday, January 14, 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 last weekend, so we hope to have a good crowd. Plan to join us for the fun and be present to tell our neighbors about our great church. Contact Pastor Elizabeth with questions ([eacton@dhpc.org](mailto:eacton@dhpc.org)).

## **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 pop-top 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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