



Service of the Lord's Day, December 3, 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

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Setting: Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

While We are Waiting, Come

WAITING (Cason)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come Come Savior, quickly come . . .

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sanctified Art

Leader: In God's house, we can be joyful.

All: We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious,

and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

† **HYMN #182**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kingsfold

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

Sanctified Art

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

*For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,
Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.
Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.*

(time for silent reflection)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ENCOUNTERING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

[Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#)

p 540-541 OT

NEW TESTAMENT READING

[Luke 1:1-23](#)

p 56 NT

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Renée A. Meyer

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Sanctified Art

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers,
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.**

**We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,
not just survival and existence.**

**We believe in a God who looks ahead,
who is not done dreaming for the world—
a God who sends hope in the form of people and change,
movements and Spirit.**

**And so we return to this space.
We bring our joy and our weariness
like two sides of the same coin,
and we trust that God is already at work.**

**Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.
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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Dedicating Our Gifts to Combating Racism

Advent waiting and combating racism may seem like unrelated concepts at first, but upon closer examination, there is a connection between the two. Advent is a period of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ. This waiting is a time of reflection and self-examination, where individuals are encouraged to examine their own beliefs and actions.

Similarly, combating racism requires individuals to engage in self-reflection and examine their own biases and prejudices. It requires acknowledging and challenging the systemic racism that exists in society. Just as Advent is a time of waiting for the arrival of Christ, combating racism requires patience and perseverance. It is not a quick fix, but a continuous process that requires ongoing effort and commitment.

Both Advent waiting and combating racism involve hope and the belief in a better future. Advent is a time of hope and anticipation for the coming of Christ, while combating racism is driven by the hope for a more inclusive and equitable society. Both require individuals to have faith in the possibility of change, to actively work towards that change, and to have hope for a better future.

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus arr. James Mulholland

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation; Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne!

† DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow God Rest Ye Merry

The musical notation is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, on every hill and coast! Praise God above, all angels who comprise the heavenly host! Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Ghost! O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All communion bread is gluten free

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN #744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Festal Song

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

“Vom Himmel hoch”
(From Heaven Above)

Wilbur Held

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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.

Today's bulletin image, *Make Your Face Shine*, Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity was inspired by Psalm 80 Garrity says, “As I read and reread Psalm 80, I remembered that politeness is not the language of the weary. Then, I began to draw. What emerged was a face shining from the cosmos. I imagined God as Holy Mother or Holy Parent weeping for her creation. As I completed the image, I added a flock of doves flying out from the void into which God's tears fall. The doves represent the Spirit let loose in our world, flapping their wings into every desperate corner. I added them not as a statement, but as a plea: *please, God, make your face shine so we might be saved.*”

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.

Jane Boyd Lee is doing better! She no longer needs physical therapy and is trying to stay active. She welcomes phone calls, visits, and correspondence.

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; **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; and **Rhea Hannah**, dear friend and former member of DHPC.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Sunday, December 3

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

- 10:00 AM – *Children's Sunday School*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship*
- 12:00 PM – *Advent Event with Lunch, Hanging of the Greens, and Advent Fun*

Monday, December 4

- 12:30 PM – *Mission Team Meeting via Zoom*

Wednesday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 9

- 11:00 AM – *DHPC Sponsored Virginia Highland's Winterfest Kids' Corner*

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*

ADVENT EVENT: LUNCH, COOKIE BAR, HANGING OF THE GREENS, MISSION, & CRAFTS

Today, Following Worship; Converse and Sanctuary

All are invited to join in on the fun of DHPC's annual Advent Event! Lunch will take place in Converse. All other activities will be in the sanctuary. The cost of lunch is \$5/person with a \$15 maximum for 3 or more. (If cost is prohibitive, talk to Pastor Elizabeth.) We hope you will join us in the fun!

DISHWASHING HELP NEEDED!

Today after Advent Lunch

We are looking for a small team of dishwashers for after the Advent lunch. If you are interested in helping, email Eric Dusenbury at ericdusenbury@gmail.com or call him at 678-613-2886.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: DHPC TABLE AT VA-HI'S WINTERFEST KIDS' CORNER

Saturday, December 9, 11am - 5pm

DHPC will once again be spreading holiday cheer for all to hear at Virginia-Highland's Winterfest! DHPC is the presenting sponsor of the Winterfest Kids Corner, which will feature activities like bounce houses, face painting, elf performances, crafts, and more. (DHPC volunteers are not responsible for running these activities!) This is an amazing opportunity for DHPCers to reach out to our neighbors to share the good news about our fantastic church that is doing such great work in the VaHi community and beyond. Volunteers are needed to staff the DHPC table. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Pastor Elizabeth (eacton@dhpc.org).

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY: LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 10, 11AM

Worship next Sunday, the second Sunday in Advent, will be a beautiful celebration of scripture and music. The Chancel Choir, along with the Handbell Choir, is set to deliver a joyous musical experience, accompanied by special guest musicians, including the uplifting sounds of festive trumpets. Join us as we celebrate the good news of hope breaking into a weary world as we hear the story of Christ's birth through song and word!

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT!

Sundays, December 3 and December 10, Before and After Worship

Yahoo! The congregational retreat is a go! Join us in the mountains of NC January 19 - 21 for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and faithful connection to God, nature, and one another. To register, see Pastor Elizabeth or a member of the Christian Education team in the rear of the sanctuary following worship. Information about how to register online is in the church newsletter.

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 Moderator Carol Wideman or Vice Moderator Coby Armstrong.

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!

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. 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

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