



## ***Service of the Lord's Day, January 7, 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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

*Gathered by Love*

*Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.  
The glory of God has risen among us.*

**All: We are awake; we are alive!**

**Praise God for deliverance and blessings**

*Lift up your eyes to see all around you.*

*Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.*

**May justice water the earth like a shower;**

**Let righteousness and peace abound.**

*Receive again the promises of the gospel.*

*Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ*

**God's ways are being revealed to us today.**

**Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ.**

## † HYMN #744

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

Festal Song

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

## UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

*Gathered by Love*

**God of light, we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretension and exclusion.  
How often we choose to associate with people who are like us and then look down  
on others who differ from us.**

**It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own. We judge the poor and join  
their oppressors, while you call us to identify with those in need, that all may  
prosper together.**

**We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of your grace, while you welcome,  
as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore. Save us from our earthbound  
judgments, that we may look up and be guided by the star that draws all people to  
yourself.**

**Awed by your forgiving presence, we fall down to worship you. Amen.**

*(time for silent reflection)*

## POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

# ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

p 2 NT

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

### SERMON

“Manifestations of the Divine”

Rev. Dr. Renée A. Meyer

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*World Council of Churches*

**I believe in the God that accompanies me along every step of my path on this earth, many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes, other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me, and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.**

**I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ, who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes, who walked in my ways and knows of lights and shadows. The one who ate and starved, who had a home and suffered loneliness, who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved and hated. The one who went to parties and funerals, the one who laughed and cried.**

**I believe in the God of Spirit, who breathes freshly on me, who inspires me to be better, to do better, to love more. I believe in a God who makes life in body and spirit full of great possibilities!**

**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**

Monday, January 15 is the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year, instead of merely using the day off to scratch things off your to do list, use it to reflect on Dr. King's life, which was committed to working for racial equity, economic justice, and nonviolent conflict resolution. In addition, commit to taking at least one action to honor Dr. King's life and work. Consider making a financial gift to an organization aligned with Dr. King's work, volunteering with a justice-oriented organization, visiting a museum to explore the work of civil rights leaders, watching a documentary to learn more about Dr. King (examples can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/MLKDocumentaries>), or, if you were alive during Dr. King's time, write down your memories and share them with someone. The opportunities are endless and as Dr. King himself said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

**ANTHEM**

*Heavenly Light*

arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O Light Divine!  
May each soul insorrow's night see the heavenly light!  
Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation!  
All those whose feet mayfalter, lead unto the sacred altar!  
Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray!  
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise Thee!

† **DOXOLOGY #607**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Old Hundredth

**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 #853**

*We Are Marching in the Light of God*

Siyahamba

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

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## WORSHIP NOTES

**Today's Bulletin image** is *Beloved* by Lauren Wright Pittman. Inspired by Luke's account of Jesus' baptism, Pittman says that "This image offers a snapshot of Jesus right before he steps into his calling, on the threshold of spectacular affirmation. He is completely suspended, embraced, and upheld by the waters of baptism. The water's surface is choppy. The future is unknown and precarious. His path is a lonely and formidable one, eventually leading to his suffering and death. Despite what is to come, Jesus reaches toward the surface. Two fish are drawn to the light of his halo, foreshadowing his companionship with fishers and his miraculous feeding of the five thousand. All of creation is leaning into his call."

**Our Call to Worship and Prayer of Brokenness** come from Lavon Bayler's *Gathered by Love*. Bayler notes that each Sunday we are gathered by love to sit at the feet of Jesus. Then "we are sent back to our everyday world to share love, not as a sentimental feeling but in caring actions."

**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**

**Ebony Collier**, DHPC choir member, is recovering from major surgery. She hopes to be back with the choir by late January.

**Thomas Jones**, DHPC's beloved security guard, continues to recover well from his mid-December surgery. He is grateful for DHPC and all the love he has been shown. Cards can be sent to Thomas at P.O. Box 55375, Atlanta, GA 30308.

**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 7**

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

### **Tuesday, January 9**

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

### **Wednesday, January 10**

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

### **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*

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### **Today, After Worship**

We will be having a congregational meeting after worship on January 7 to approve the terms of the call for Pastor Renée, to elect our elders, and to consider changing the church's bylaws to make the clerk a non-voting member of Session.

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

**Tuesday, January 9, 10:30 AM and 7:15 PM**

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

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

**Next 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)).

## **GUEST PREACHER NEXT SUNDAY: DR. MITZI J. SMITH**

**Sunday, January 14, 1PM**

Be sure to be present in worship next week as we welcome Dr. Mitzi J. Smith, the J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. 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. Dr. Smith will be preaching a sermon entitled "The Injustice of Exclusion and the Justice of Recognizing the Humanity of the Othered," which will surely engage all those who hear it!

## **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)).

## **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>

## **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](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.

## 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***

*1026 Ponce de Leon Ave NE Atlanta, GA 30306 | 404.875.7591 | [www.dhpc.org](http://www.dhpc.org)  
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