



Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 17, 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

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

A Sanctified Art

Leader: Why are you here?

**All: I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind
with a fire burning in my bones.**

I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Why are *you* here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart,

with my entire mind,

with a fire burning in my bones.

We see that in you! You're in the right place.

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

† HYMN #630

Fairest Lord Jesus

Crusaders' Hymn

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

Sanctified Art

Holy God,

We long to be lifelong learners.

We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.

Instead, we often live as if we know best.

We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine

that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask,

"How many times should we forgive?"—make us brave.

Spark a desire in us to learn,

and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.

With hope and humility we pray.

(time for silent reflection)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Sanctified Art

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

“How many times should I forgive?”

“Jesus, where are you going?”

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

“What do you need?”

“How can I help?”

We believe that God is a teacher.

“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

“Lord, teach me your paths.”

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

with all our heart,

with all our mind,

with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

ENCOUNTERING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[Psalm 119:9-16](#)
[Matthew 18:15-22](#)

p 566 OT
p 20 NT

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

SERMON

“Teach Me”

Rev. Julie Ferguson

† HYMN #444

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Detroit

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

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. Thank you to the Deacons who hosted a lovely reception yesterday following May DeWees’ funeral. Thank you also to everyone whose food offerings assured that there was plenty to go around!

Earth Stewardship Invitation: Forty percent of the plastic produced each year is single-use plastic. The United States needs to take action to cut down on the amount of plastic resin it produces and imports each year. The REDUCE Act would put a fee on the sale of new, virgin plastic resin used to make single-use products. Beginning a wave of positive change, the passage of the REDUCE act would bring less pollution to God's creation. Advocate for passage of this act here: <https://tinyurl.com/DHPCREDUCE>

ANTHEM

Teach Me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes; And I shall keep it unto the end.

† DOXOLOGY #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

**O to grace how great a debtor | daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, | bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, | prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; | seal it for thy courts above.**

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.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

† HYMN #442

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Woodworth

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP NOTES

This Lent (Sunday, February 18 - Sunday, March 31) DHPC will explore the Sanctified Art series "Wandering Heart." We will be "focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer... we often see ourselves." Join us over these weeks as we follow this disciple and his relationship with Jesus and ponder how this story can be comforting to us as our journey seems to wander rather than continue in a straight line. The liturgy throughout this series comes from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Today's bulletin image, *Seventy-seven Times*, by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman was inspired by Matthew 18:15-22. The artist writes, "In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproof, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. In the center, a person is standing alone, isolated, with their arms crossed in a closed-off posture. If you're sinned against, Jesus says to go and 'point out the fault when the two of you are alone' (Matthew 18:15). When you move to the second ring of the mandala, there are pairs of people shaking hands, finding common ground, or at least attempting to. If this doesn't work, then you are to bring more people together to provide counsel and witness. In the third ring of the mandala, two people are engaging with the closed-off person, sharing a way forward. In the next ring hyacinth flowers—which represent sorrow, regret, and forgiveness—stretch, bloom, and grow, bringing beauty into the now open arms of the people in the last ring of the mandala, who are embraced and woven into the community. The person from the center goes from being alone and closed-off to embraced and open."

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 anyone 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 condolence

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Coby and Bill Armstrong** following the death of **Coby's mother, Mildred "Mimi" Hagood Williams**. Notes of sympathy may be sent to Coby and Bill at 460 Shannon Green Circle, SW, Mableton, GA 30126-1634. Mimi's memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 23 at 11:00 am at Mayes Ward Dobbins Funeral Home (180 Church Street, NE, Marietta, GA).

prayers for our DHPC community

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

prayers for our family and friends

Richard Odom, Cynthia Middleton's brother; **Sara Torres**, friend of Adam Ralls; **Kathy Moore**, friend of the Armstrongs; **Sue Morgan**, friend of Betty and Linda Davis recently diagnosed with lung cancer; **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; **Cindy Woodside**, daughter-in-law of Helen Woodside; and **Kathy Davis**, friend of Susan Hagood.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Sunday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 20

- 7:30 PM – *Choir Practice*

Sunday, March 24

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

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY

Palm and Passion Sunday Worship; Sunday March, 24, 11 AM

During worship we will journey from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem toward the solemnity of his passion. This year, as an effort toward sustainability, we are asking you to bring your own branch of a native plant - a dogwood, azalea, magnolia, pine, or whatever is growing in your yard. As those who greeted Jesus used the plants native to them, we will use what is available to us - this brings us into the story in a new way, along with reducing waste and carbon emissions!

Maundy Thursday Lunch and Worship; Thursday, March 28, 11:30 AM; Parlor

Maundy Thursday marks the day of the Last Supper and Jesus' arrest prior to his trial and crucifixion. To mark this significant day, you are invited to a simple sandwich lunch at noon followed by a worship service with communion. The cost of lunch is \$5. (Please bring cash or check.) We look forward to worshipping with you.

Easter Morning Breakfast, Mission Project, and Egg Hunt; Sunday, March 31, 10:00 AM

Join us for a time of fellowship and fun on Easter morning. The Deacons are hosting a breakfast catered by The Flying Biscuit, the CE Team is organizing an egg hunt, and the Mission Team will have mission kits ready for assembly for Intown Cares. We will also be flowering the cross! Bring flowers or greenery to add to the cross. Please RSVP for the (free!) breakfast here:

<http://tinyurl.com/DHPCeasterBreakfast>

Easter Worship, 11 AM

After a morning of fun and food, continue your Easter celebration in worship. On this sacred day we will witness to the hope found in Christ's resurrection through scripture, prayer, special music, and communion. Join us!

WE LOVE OUR STAFF! THANK YOU OFFERING

Deadline to Give: Sunday, March 17

The Personnel Ministry Team is excited to provide the congregation an opportunity to say "thank you" for the creativity and energy that those who work for DHPC pour into caring for our congregation every day. To give to the staff offering, you may contribute by check with the memo "Staff Appreciation" or online via the DHPC website. (Select "Staff Appreciation" as the fund.) Cash in a marked envelope may be placed in the clear offering boxes at either sanctuary doorway. Contact Personnel Elder Pete McGuire (pjm2600@gmail.com) with any questions.

DHPC LENTEN DRIVE FOR MEMORIAL DRIVE MINISTRIES

Through Sunday, March 31

For this year's Lenten drive, the Mission team invites you to donate items to Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM), which will support their work welcoming new refugees. MDM is requesting spiral bound or composition notebooks, packs of pens, feminine hygiene products, and small stuffed animals. All items must be new and unopened. Donations may be left outside of the historical room (across from the Parlor). For more information, contact Anne Townsley or Pastor Elizabeth. Thank you for your support!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPECIAL MISSION PROJECT

The Presbyterian Women are working on their 2024 mission project with Mission Haven. Founded in 1951 on the Columbia Theological Seminary campus, Mission Haven runs a clothes closet, 3 houses, and 6 apartments for visiting mission co-workers of the PC(USA) and is run by PW members from all over the Southeast. DHPC's PW has set up a bulletin board with information about Mission Haven in the hallway near the St. Charles exit. Donation envelopes are available there as well. Questions? Reach out to PW Moderator Carol Wideman or Vice Moderator Coby Armstrong.

DESIGNATED PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

There are 5 phases that must be completed in this process of selecting DHPC's designated pastor. Phase 1, meeting with Presbytery Consultant Rev. Joy Fisher, is complete. Phase 2, the DPNC's current phase, involves editing the previously developed Minister Information Form, so that the picture that DHPC presents to applicants is clear and up to date. Once complete, the MIF will be approved by Presbytery and the DHPC Session. The members of the DPNC (Chris Escobar, Vivian Hodo, and Susan Rutherford, Chair) ask for your prayers as they move through this process. If you have questions, please contact a member of the DPNC.

DHPC ONCE AGAIN NAMED AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

Great news! DHPC has been re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation for the fifth year in a row! The Presbyterian Church uses this program to recognize congregations that commit to earth care in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Certification is obtained by taking actions such as having environmentally focused services or sermons, outdoor classes for youth, replacing incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, and having church-sponsored recycling days and nature hikes.

NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT DAY OF COLLABORATION

Saturday, April 6, 8:30am - 4pm; Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta

New Sanctuary Movement and the UU Congregation of Atlanta invites you to attend their daylong conference entitled "Welcoming Asylum Seekers: Creating Communities of Care." Attendees will work together to find ways to better serve the overwhelming and growing needs of asylum seekers in our area. If you are interested, please contact Susan Hagood (shagoodrd@msn.com).

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. Plastic grocery bags are also needed.**

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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

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Julie Ferguson, revjulieferg@gmail.com
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
Property and Administration: William Edmister
Worship: Bob Beard
Clerk of the Session: Eric Dusenbury
Treasurer: Linda Davis

Elder Emerita:
Cecile McRae Hooks

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church

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