



Service of the Lord's Day, July 23, 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

All Creatures of Our God and King

David Lowe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: I have a story.

All: I have a story.

We all have a story –

of who we are and where we are from...

of why we are here and what keeps us coming back...

of how and what and who we love...

of what we believe and what we fear and what we dream.

We bring these stories as we gather,

entrusting them to one another,

and to our faithful God whose story is woven through all of ours.

Let us worship together!

† **HYMN #839**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

Assurance

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

**You are our God and we are your people,
and we are grateful that you have claimed us as your own.
You have set us in the company of saints past and present,
among those who have made bold witness to your goodness and truth.**

God, as you knew our ancestors, you know us.

You know the places in our hearts

where we are afraid,

where we are angry,

where we are weak-willing and timid,

where we hold grudges,

where we are judgmental,

where we erect walls between us and them.

This is our story, O God:

a story of brokenness, of sin, of need,

of our profound need for your mercy.

We tell this story, O God,

in hopes that you will rewrite our story

– into a story of cleansed hearts, renewed hope, deepened faith.

**Write the stories of your people deep into our hearts
that we may learn to be, like them, bold witnesses to your goodness and truth.**

**We ask in Jesus' name
whose life has rewritten the story of the world
according to your unending grace...**

(time for silent reflection)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Declaration of Faith

**Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.
The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history,
together with his people's response in faith.
It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church
towards the kingdom of God,
his just and loving rule over all.
It is the story of the one God,
who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

**That story is still unfolding
and in faith we make it our own.
It forms our memory and our hope.
It tells us who we are and what we are to do.
To retell it is to declare what we believe.**

**We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell.
The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will
among all peoples of the earth.
We believe God works beyond our imagining
throughout the universe.**

**We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.
We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power.
We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.**

**To worship God is highest joy.
To serve God is perfect freedom.**

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Acts 16:9-15](#)
[Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60](#)
[Acts 9:36-42](#)

p 136 NT
p 124-126 NT
p 128 NT

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

SERMON

“Acts of the Church: Telling Our Stories”

Rev. Betsy Turner

† **HYMN #730**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Grand Isle

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Amani Women Center

Anne Townsley

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 to all of you for your kindness and flexibility last week when Betsy was under the weather. It is so wonderful to see the church pull together and do what needs to be done for one another in a pinch. Particular thanks to all those who volunteered to read parts of the Sermon on the Mount and to Pastor Elizabeth for leading worship and the Session meeting in Betsy’s absence.

Earth Stewardship Invitation: We’re in the thick of farmer’s market season! Visit your neighborhood market and talk to the farmers. Ask where they grow their food and what methods they use. Then choose to support a farmer that you have confirmed is local and uses sustainable practices.

ANTHEM

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Traditional

Susan Rutherford, *voice and guitar*

Every time I feel the spirit movin’ in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the spirit movin’ in my heart I will pray.

Up on the mountains my Lord spoke; Out of His mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine; I asked the Lord could it be mine.

Every time I feel the spirit movin’ in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the spirit movin’ in my heart I will pray.

Oh, I have sorrows and I have woe, and I have heartache here below.
But while God leads me I’ll never fear; For I am sheltered by His care.

† **DOXOLOGY #733**

We All Are One in Mission ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN
verse 3

Now let us be united | and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel | for God’s redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; | we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united | by Christ, the Lord of all.

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 #691

Lord, When I Came Into This Life

Land of Rest

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

David Lowe

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WORSHIP NOTES

Bulletin art is “Stephen” by Gracie Morbitzer of The Modern Saints (themodernsaints.com). This artist offers powerful contemporary interpretations of the saints, “painted with character, correct age and ethnicity, and modern style to show how human they were: how amazing, and how just like us.” Of this particular piece, she writes, “*Since martyrs are so often pictured with their method of murder, I chose to portray Stephen with a more modern form of “stones” pictured on his sweatshirt. His eyes are raised to his vision of heaven, though he looks afraid - he did not have any previous martyrs to give him the strength and courage to endure his torture and death as all future martyrs did.*”

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 Pastor Betsy Turner (bturner@dhpc.org). She'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 expressed to **Katie and David Vigilante** following the death of Katie's mother, **Maureen O'Harra**, on July 9. There will be a memorial service in the fall.

Rob Sims, brother-in-law of **Renée Weese and Tina McCormick** died on July 7 after an extended illness. Prayers are requested for his wife, Pam, and his sons, Drew and Bryan.

prayers for our DHPC community

Jon Houghton is facing difficulties with a neighbor. He would appreciate prayers as this matter continues to be worked out through the legal process. The hearing has been rescheduled again, to July 26.

Jane Boyd Lee is doing better! She is getting good physical therapy for her back and tries to stay active. She welcomes phone calls, visits and correspondence.

Miriam Herrera's hernia surgery went well. She came home on June 28 and is in good spirits.

Adam Ralls is awaiting surgery for spinal stenosis.

Charles Middleton is now under hospice care at home. Cards and letters can be sent to him at 609 Sibley Cir., McDonough, GA 30253-7483

Betty Davis has moved to rehab following a fall and a broken hip. The plan is for her to be in rehab for 2-3 weeks.

Gigi Muirheid is continuing to recover well from hip replacement surgery.

Jane Weir reports that her recovery from hip replacement surgery continues to move along very well. She is grateful for the great care and support she has received from her DHPC friends.

Helen Woodside had surgery on June 15 and is at home doing well.

Isaree Patterson had surgery. She thanks everyone for their prayers and all the concerns shown for her. She had a small setback this week, but hopes to continue her recovery and be back with us soon.

prayers for our family and friends

Richard Odom, Cynthia Middleton's brother; **Pamela McIntosh**, Betty McIntosh's daughter; **Don and Dottie Nye**, former DHPC building manager and his wife (sister of Ivey Lois Hubert); **Allie Day and her family**, friend of Jane Weir; **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; **Olivia Carlisle, 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; **Indira Parekh**, friend of Anne Townsley; **Margaret Boulware**, friend of Vivian Hodo; **Madelyn Magruder**, friend of Jane Martin; **Kate Pierce**, sister of Marlene Slavich; **Devon Corbett and his mother, Melinda Corbett**, friends of Robert Welborn; **students and faculty of New College of Florida**, alma mater of Susan Rutherford; **Robin Kirkpatrick**, friend of Susan Rutherford, **Shannon Dodd and family**; friends of the Soileau Acton family; **Chelsea Walker**, daughter of Letia Henson; **Maggie and Phil Gasior**, friends of Anne Soileau; **Tim O'Farrell and Brent Yountz.**, friends 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; **Anne Dukes**, mother-in-law of Jane Weir's son; and **Connie Finn**, sister of Cliff Frierson.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Sunday, July 23

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*
Roundtable Adult Education Class
- 10:00 AM – *DHPC Kids Get Crafty*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship - In-Person and Livestream*
- 12:00 PM – *Sandwich Ministry*

Sunday, July 30

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*
Roundtable Adult Education Class
- 10:00 AM – *Deacon's (Free) Garage Sale*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship - In-Person and Livestream*
Blessing for the New School Year

SANDWICH MINISTRY

Today, Following Worship (Back of Sanctuary)

On the fourth Sunday of each month, the congregation is invited to assist in making sandwiches for our hungry neighbors who receive care at Intown Cares and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Many hands make light work, so make plans to gather after worship in the rear of the sanctuary to help. Contact Anne Townsley (anne.townsley314@gmail.com) with any questions.

DHPC DEACONS' (FREE) GARAGE SALE

Sundays, July 30 and August 6; 10 - 11 AM

You are invited to peruse the Deacons' garage sale featuring items from the church kitchens and storage bays. All items are available to you completely free! Tables will be set up in the hallway outside of the Parlor. Any items not taken by August 6 will be donated to area nonprofits. Contact Deacon Chair Anne Soileau (katies.nana@hotmail.com) with any questions.

BLESSING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Sunday, July 30; During Worship (11 AM)

Holy smokes! It's back to school time already! All students, teachers, and school employees are encouraged to join us in worship to receive a special back to school blessing and a small gift to remind you that God's love goes with you each and every day. (Note: Backpacks are not needed.) If you are unable to join us, let Pastor Elizabeth know and she'll get your gift to you! DHPC hopes you have a wonderful school year!

PASTORAL TRANSITION UPDATE

As DHPC goes through the steps to call our next installed pastor, updates will be shared here.

Where we are: Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been prayerfully narrowing down the search by conducting interviews, listening to sermons, and checking references. Thank you to the congregation for your patience, prayers, and respect for the confidentiality of the process!

What comes next and what you can do: Once the PNC identifies their candidate, we'll hold a congregational meeting where you will hear about the search process and the person, and vote on calling them as your pastor. Until then, keep praying!

DHPC KIDS GET CRAFTY

Sunday, August 6th; 10AM

Come join the fun at DHPC this summer for some craft making! Nicole Escobar will lead the children in making handcrafted creations. We will meet in the children's Sunday school classroom. Children of all ages are invited.

DHPC TRIP TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

NEW DATE: Saturday, August 26, 11 AM - 2 PM (RSVP by August 9)

The Mission Team invites you to participate in the rescheduled trip to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. This wonderful museum features iconic exhibitions sharing the papers and artifacts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the history of the civil rights movement in the United States; and stories from the struggle for human rights around the world today. Following exploration of the museum, participants are invited for optional lunch and conversation. The cost of the museum ticket is \$20 (65 and up: \$18). **If you would like to join us, RSVP to Pastor Elizabeth by August 9.**

RESTORED ORGAN INSTALLATION – GOOD NEWS!

At long last, we are thrilled to announce that the installation of our restored pipe organ has begun! A crew from the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company came Thursday, July 13 to deliver some of the restored components and began preparing the Swell and Choir chambers to receive that portion of the organ. That included removing some original, now obsolete, electrical wiring. Much of this past week was spent installing components that supply the wind pressure for the Swell pipes, a few of which might start arriving by the end of this week. Installation of organ components will continue for several weeks but, since it is behind those gold façade pipes, the progress will be mostly invisible to the congregation. The project experienced extended, unexpected delays, almost entirely caused by the Covid pandemic and its effects on labor, health, manufacturing parts, and deliveries. But, as Arthur Schlueter put it, the candle of installation has been lit!

TV TIME! AT THE TABLE ON AIB

Our own interim pastor, Betsy Turner, was recently interviewed for the program *At the Table* on Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting (AIB), discussing our new solar panels and DHPC's faithful commitment to earth care and sustainability. The episode will replay throughout the month of July on aibtv.com and on TV; see weekly email for times and cable channels. The 13-minute segment is now available online for on-demand viewing here:

<https://tinyurl.com/DHPConTV>. Don't forget to share the link with friends and family as a way of spreading the good work of DHPC!

SAVE THE DATE: FALL KICKOFF TAILGATE PARTY

Sunday, September 10

What better way to kick off our fall programs than with a tailgate party? But we can't do it without you! Do you have a truck tailgate or a grill you can bring? Are you a master griller who would be willing to show off your skills? If you are able to help, please let Anne Soileau (katies.nana@hotmail.com) know.

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, condiments, bottled water, tuna packets, canned poptop veggies, instant coffee, rice (1-2lb bags), canned meats, utensil packets, peanut butter & jelly, canned beans, 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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Betsy Turner, bturner@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

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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