



Service of the Lord's Day, September 10, 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we feel lost, we remember...

All: When we gather to worship, we find God in our midst.

When we face obstacles and barriers, we remember...

God is always at work among us, protecting and tending our well-being.

When we cannot find our way out of conflict and discord, we remember...

God calls and equips us for the work of reconciliation.

When we struggle to attune to how God is at work all around us, we remember...

God calls us to pause and listen, and tell the stories of God's grace.

Pilgrims on the way, when we watch for signs of God among us, let us remember...

We too are signs of God's presence for others!

Let us worship God.

† HYMN #409

God Is Here!

Abbot's Leigh

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.

We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.

We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do.

(time for silent reflection)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal**

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Romans 13:8-14](#)
[Matthew 18:15-20](#)

p 162 NT
p 20 NT

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

SERMON

“Shall We?”

Ruling Elder Hiram A. Perez-Cordero

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION: New Sanctuary Movement

Susan Hagood

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.

...

Thank you. A tremendous thank you to the Deacons for their tremendous work planning and hosting last Sunday's reception for Betsy Turner. The snacks, cake, and decor were top notch! Thank you also to Nicole Escobar for leading DHPC's children in making farewell gifts for Betsy. Betsy felt very loved!

Earth Stewardship Invitation: Attend your local town/city hall meeting. Only by paying attention to local decisions and advocating for sustainable practices can we assure that our neighborhoods are making decisions with care for the earth in mind.

ANTHEM

Come Christians, Join to Sing
DHPC Handbell Choir
Denise Willingham-Huewitt, *director*

arr. Charles Maggs

† **DOXOLOGY #607**

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. 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.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN #353**

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Solid Rock

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

† **POSTLUDE**

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WORSHIP NOTES

Our guest preacher, Hiram A. Perez-Cordero, is a member of Shallowford PC. He has served in many councils of the church including The Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation (General Assembly), the Committee on Representation (Presbytery of Greater Atlanta), 2 church sessions (Ceiba Baja PC in Puerto Rico and Rock Spring PC in Atlanta), the UKirk Atlanta Board, and he currently serves on the PGA Council where he represents the New Church Development Commission, where is a board member. Hiram was ordained at a young age (15!) and since then he has experienced many changes in our denomination. He is enthusiastic and grateful for the PC(USA)'s witness in our world and is passionate about the Gospel. Hiram believes that Christ's message of love, justice, compassion, and peace will guide our Church to its next chapter. When not serving the church, Hiram works as a Spanish teacher at Marietta Middle School. He lives in Atlanta with his husband Cris and his nephew Braylan.

The bulletin cover is "Going to Church" by Wiliam Johnson. The piece belongs to a series of images in which the artist reflected on his personal experience growing up in the racially segregated south in the early 1900s. The prayer of confession was written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good,' <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com>.

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).

prayers of condolence

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to **Cynthia, Chuck and Gretal Middleton and their friends and family** upon the death of long time DHPC member and friend **Charles Middleton, Jr.** Charles died on Tuesday, September 5. Visitation will be Thursday, September 14, 5pm - 7pm, at Watkins Funeral Home in McDonough (96 South Zack Hinton Pkwy., McDonough, GA 30253). A graveside burial service will be Friday, September 15, at 1pm at Georgia National Cemetery (2025 Mount Carmel Church Lane, Canton, GA 30114). A celebration of Charles' life and a service of witness to the resurrection will be held Saturday, September 16, at 11am at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. A catered reception will follow in Converse Hall. Condolence and care notes can be sent to Cynthia, Chuck, and Gretal at 609 Sibley Cir., McDonough, GA 30253-7483.

prayers for our DHPC community

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.

Adam Ralls is awaiting surgery for spinal stenosis.

Betty Davis is making good progress after breaking her hip and hopes to go home from rehab in early September.

Helen Woodside has finished radiation and is in remission. She is so grateful for prayers, cards and phone calls.

Isaree Patterson had surgery. She thanks everyone for their prayers and all the concerns shown for her. She 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; **Kate Pierce**, sister of Marlene Slavich; **Gwen Davies**, friend of Susan Rutherford; **Shannon Dodd and family**; friends of the Soileau Acton family; **Chelsea Walker**, daughter of Letia Henson; **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; **Connie Finn**, sister of Cliff Frierson; and **Peyton Kirby**, nephew of Robert Welborn.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Sunday, September 10

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*
Roundtable Adult Education Class
- 11:00 AM – *Worship With Guest Preacher Hiram A. Perez-Cordero*
- 12:00 PM – *Session Meeting*
Deacon Training

Monday, September 11

- 12:30 PM – *Online Deacon Meeting*

Tuesday, September 12

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

Wednesday, September 13

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

Saturday, September 16

- 11:00 AM – *Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration*
Of the Life of Charles Middleton

Sunday, September 17

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*
Roundtable Adult Education Class
- 10:00 AM – *DHPC Kids Get Crafty*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship*
- 12:00 PM – *Kickoff Tailgate Party and Lunch*

PASTORAL TRANSITION UPDATE: NEW PASTOR ON THE WAY!

DHPC's new pastor, Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer, starts in the office tomorrow, September 11, and will be in the pulpit on September 17!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN DAY AND NIGHT CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 12, 10:30 AM and 7:15 PM

PW is back from summer break! PW will meet the second Tuesday of each month from September through June for fellowship and Bible study. Because of the recent uptick in Covid and RSV, we will meet virtually on Zoom rather than in person for now. We look forward to this year's Horizons Bible Study on "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" which will be led by Gigi Muirheid (Day Circle) and Marion Reeves (Night Circle). For more information about PW or if you need a copy of this year's Bible study booklet, talk with Moderator Carol Wideman or Vice Moderator Coby Armstrong.

DISHWASHING HELP NEEDED!

Sunday, September 17 after Lunch

We are looking for a small team of dishwashers for after the reception today. We also need a couple of folks to help with dishes after the kickoff tailgate on September 17. If you are interested in helping, email Eric Dusenbury at eric.dusenbury@gmail.com or call him at 678.613.2886.

DHPC KIDS GET CRAFTY

Sunday, September 17, 10AM

Come join the fun at DHPC for one last morning of 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.

FALL KICKOFF TAILGATE PARTY

Sunday, September 17; Following Worship

What better way to kick off our fall programs and celebrate the arrival of DHPC's new minister than with a tailgate party? However, the Deacons can't pull off the fun without your help! DHPC will provide the fried chicken and drinks, but they're depending on you for the sides (and the tailgates)! If you have a truck or SUV that can add to our ambiance, contact Marlene Slavich (mpslavich@yahoo.com). If you would like to contribute to the side dishes, contact Susan Hagood (shagoodrd@msn.com). (Pull out your old DHPC cookbook and pick a favorite from there!) There is no cost for this meal, but please RSVP so there is plenty of food. Register via the bulletin insert or online at <https://tinyurl.com/DHPCFallKickoff>.

MEMORIAL DRIVE MINISTRIES FRIEND-RAISER

Saturday, September 30, 1:30 - 3:30PM

Our friends at Memorial Drive Ministries are hosting a party and you're invited! You may remember MDM Director, Rev. David Roth, preaching for us earlier this year. A number of you asked about opportunities to learn more about MDM. Well, here's your chance! At this event, guests will tour the MDM campus, meet on-site partners, play games, and eat snacks! If you would like to attend, please RSVP by emailing Beverly Markham at beverly@alpharettapres.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, tuna packets, canned poptop veggies, instant coffee, canned meats, peanut butter & jelly, canned soup (not condensed), cereal.**

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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