



Service of the Lord's Day, September 17, 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

O Land Of Rest

Roger C. Wilson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

All: We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.

During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

We rise from our work and leisure to bring healing and hope to others.

In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries, the Spirit is with us.

The Light of life shines on us in every moment of every day.

† HYMN #634

To God Be the Glory

To God Be The Glory

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch over us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether we recognize it or accept it, even as you remain faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(time for silent reflection)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

Keeper of our souls, be with us;

Watcher of our days, lead us;

Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.

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.**

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 3:1-17](#)

p 93-94 NT

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

SERMON

“On Being Born Again”

Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer

† **HYMN #366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

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. On this day when we welcome our new pastor on her first Sunday, we give special thanks to the Pastor Nominating Committee for all their hard and discerning work, and to you, the congregation, for your prayer, support, and patience through this transition process.

Earth Stewardship Invitation: Learn about a new-to-you local plant or animal. Pick a native species and research it. How can you identify this plant? How does it benefit our community? Where can you find this animal? As you learn more, give thanks to God for the diversity of creation!

ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!

O be joyful in God, all ye lands. O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

†**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 #450**

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*Now go with the Spirit, from the comfort of this place,
so we may go to bring hope to the world.
Now carry the Light of Christ with you,
we will go into the shadows with this gift.
Now trust in God who is always with you,
we will follow that life called discipleship.*

† POSTLUDE

Echo Fanfare

Lani Smith

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WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome to Rev. Dr. Renee Meyer, DHPC's new pastor! Renee has been in ministry for thirty years in Texas, Missouri, Kentucky, and, most recently, in Rome, GA. We are excited that Renee's next chapter in her ministry begins here with us today! Welcome, Renee and Jerry! We're glad you're here!

Today's bulletin image is *Jesus Christ and Nicodemus* by Matthias Stom and is used through the wikimedia commons license, with the original source here:
<https://www.blindbild.com/darmstadt-hessisches-landesmuseum-darmstadt-gemaldegalerie-november-2014/hlmd-matthias-stom/>

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

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. 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.

Santana Herrera is undergoing medical tests.

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; **Peyton Kirby**, nephew of Robert Welborn; and **Cindy Woodside**, daughter-in-law of Helen Woodside.

WEEKLY UPDATE

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*

Wednesday, September 20

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

Sunday, September 24

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

DISHWASHING HELP NEEDED!

Today, after Lunch

We are looking for a small team of dishwashers to help with dishes after today's lunch. If you are interested in helping, find Eric Dusenbury at lunch and let him know you are available. (If you are interested in helping, but can't volunteer today, let Eric (ericdusenbury@gmail.com) know you'd like to be added to the team.)

FALL KICKOFF TAILGATE PARTY

Today; 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? Join us on the lawn immediately following worship for fried chicken, potluck sides, dessert and wonderful fellowship! There is no cost for this meal, so come gather for food and fun!

FALL ONLINE BOOK STUDY:

Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice

Monday, October 9 - November 13; 7:30 - 8:30 PM

The Christian Education Team invites you to participate in this Fall's online book study, featuring the book *Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice* by Scott Black Johnston, Senior Pastor of NYC's Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. This book, and the conversation around it, will explore the unrest over long-standing social injustices and the rise in new, antidemocratic perspectives and practices. Participants will reflect on whether or not a nation so divided as ours can come together again and how we, as people of faith, might reconcile the call to participate in God's ongoing struggle for justice while not losing our souls to hatred. To participate, RSVP by emailing Elizabeth by Monday, October 2.

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.

"TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION HOME" COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Thursday, October 19, 5:30 - 7:30pm

The Mission Team is excited to host a workshop for our VaHi (and beyond) neighbors. The workshop, taught by Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, will share information about energy efficiency and solar power options, as well as information about Inflation Reduction Act benefits for individual homeowners. DHPC members and friends are encouraged to attend to welcome our neighbors. In addition, Anne Townsley is arranging potluck snacks for guests. If you would like to contribute, please contact Anne (anne.townsley314@gmail.com). Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend this exciting workshop. Childcare will be provided. Contact Pastor Elizabeth (eacton@dhpc.org) with any questions.

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

Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Renee 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

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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