



Service of the Lord's Day, September 3, 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

Partita on "Hyfrydol"

Charles Callahan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 121

Leader: I lift my eyes up to the hills - where will my help come from?

All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot be moved; the one who keeps you will not slumber.

The Lord is your keeper, your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The faithful one will keep you from all evil, and will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, now and forevermore.

Let us worship God!

† **HYMN #645**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden Zart

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

Timeless God,

We confess that we have sinned in relation to the past:

obscuring or ignoring history,

failing to learn from mistakes,

or, on the other hand, clinging nostalgically to the past

in a way that holds us back from following you.

We confess that we sin in the present as well:

we sin against you and our neighbors

by things we do and things we leave undone,

by what we say and what we leave unsaid,

and in the secret thoughts and judgments we carry.

We even confess that even our looking to the future is tainted with sin:

Our dreams are too small, our fears are too big.

We plan without regard for your calling.

We seek to control the future by hoarding power and wealth,

instead of trusting your providence.

God of our past, future, and this present moment,

we ask for your forgiveness and transformation.

Set us free from a past we cannot change;

open us to a future in which we can be changed;

and grant us today the grace

to grow more and more in your likeness and image;

through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

(time for silent reflection)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)

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 God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
of every gender, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

**Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.**

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON selections from Deuteronomy 31 and 34
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

p 186-191 OT

SERMON

"Letting Go and Looking Forward"

Rev. Betsy Turner

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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Dedicating our Gifts to Combating Racism: Last Sunday, Pastor Elizabeth shared the opening prayer for the “Great March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom” held on August 28, 1963, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the March. While the Great March is best known for MLK’s “I Have a Dream” speech and its historic impact on the Civil Rights movement, what is often lost in the remembrance of the March is that it wasn’t just a call for racial equality but also a demand for economic justice.

Just four days after the Great March, on Monday, September 2, 1963, our country celebrated Labor Day as a federal holiday for the 69th year. The impetus behind Labor Day forged the US labor movement which, influenced by labor and trade organizations, led to improvements in working conditions. These included the Fair Labor Standards Act, which established a wage floor and limits on hours, and the Wagner Act, which protected workers’ right to organize, both essentially actions to further the cause of economic justice.

A key organizer of the Great March was A. Philip Randolph, who declared in his speech that the “crisis is born of the twin evils of racism and economic deprivation.” ...And, that “They rob all people, [Black] and white, of dignity, self-respect, and freedom.” If Jesus had been a speaker at the Great March, what would he have said?

For more perspective on how lack of economic justice marginalizes all and a reference for what the Bible says about visit [Anti-Racism Daily](#), the [Dept. of Labor](#), or [Union Presbyterian Seminary](#).

ANTHEM

Unto the Hills I Will Lift Mine Eyes

Lloyd Larson

Timothy Harper, *tenor*

Unto the hills I will lift my eyes; from where shall come my aid?
My strength, my help is from God above who heaven and earth has made.
The Lord will not let my foot be moved, my Guardian never sleeps;
God’s watchful eye and faithful care protects and safely keeps.
My faithful keeper is the Lord, my shelter and my shade.
‘Neath sun or moon, by night or day, I shall not be afraid.

From evil God will keep me safe, provide my every need; My going out, my coming in, my God will ever lead!

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord; Is laid for your faith in God’s excellent word!
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

† **DOXOLOGY #339**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.

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

LITANY OF FAREWELL

*Pastor: The scripture says, "For everything there is a season...
and a time for every matter under heaven..."*

**All: God promises, "I will protect you on your journeys,
whether going or coming, from now until forever from now."**

*I thank you, the members, friends, and staff of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church,
for the love and support you have shown me
while I have ministered among you.*

I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness,
and accept that you now leave to serve elsewhere.**

We express our gratitude for your time among us.

We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.

Your influence on our faith will not end with your departure.

*I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you,
trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.*

I now release you from turning to me and depending on me.

I encourage your continuing ministry here

and will pray for you and for the transition to a new pastor.

Let us pray together.

**Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is unending,
help each of us to trust the future, which rests in your care.**

We remember before you all that we have shared:

laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments, changes and challenges.

We will carry these cherished memories.

**We remember with thanks the many things we were able to accomplish
together, and with sadness the things we were not able to do.**

**Now, we commend one another into your care as we move in new
directions.**

**Now that we are friends, keep us one in your love forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF PARTING GIFT

Bob Beard
Chair of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

CHARGE TO INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Elizabeth Soileau Acton

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN #306** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* Dennis

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† **POSTLUDE** *Partita on "Hyfrydol" Toccata* Charles Callahan

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WORSHIP NOTES

A note from Rev. Betsy Turner: Thank you, DHPC, for a rich and beautiful season of ministry together. I will be forever grateful for the experience of serving as your interim pastor. It has been fruitful and freeing, cheering and challenging, full of love and learning. I am no doubt a better pastor for having served here these eighteen months. Special thanks to the IPNC (Bob Beard, Letia Henson, and Chris Escobar) through whom the Spirit so clearly called me here, to the incredible staff who I have been delighted and blessed to serve alongside, and to all of you for welcoming my ministry in this place.

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

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.

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 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 had a small setback last 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; **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; **Ann Howard**, mother of Cliff Frierson; and **Peyton Kirby**, nephew of Robert Welborn.

WEEKLY UPDATE

Sunday, September 3

- 9:30 AM – *Drop-In Coffee and Fellowship*
- 11:00 AM – *Worship with Communion*
- 12:00 PM – *Farewell Reception for Rev. Betsy Turner*

Monday, September 4

- All Day – *Church Office Closed for Labor Day*

Wednesday, September 6

- 10:00 AM – *Mission Team Meeting*
- 6:15 PM – *Handbells Rehearsal*
- 7:30 PM – *Choir Rehearsal*

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

PASTORAL TRANSITION UPDATE: NEW PASTOR ON THE WAY!

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

Where we are and what comes next: Rev. Betsy Turner's time as DHPC's interim has ended. (We will celebrate with her today). Rev. Elizabeth Acton will be acting as Head of Staff through September 10 and we will enjoy a series of guest preachers. DHPC's new pastor, Rev. Dr. Renee A. Meyer, starts in the office on September 11, and in the pulpit on September 17. Be praying for her and her husband as they say goodbye to her current congregation and move to the Atlanta area!

DISHWASHING HELP NEEDED!

Today after the Reception and 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.

THE RETURN OF SINGING AND RINGING

Wednesday, September 6, 6:15 PM for Bells, 7:30 PM for Choir

Weekly choir rehearsals will resume this Wednesday, September 6th at 7:30 pm. Bell Ensemble will rehearse beforehand at 6:15 pm. Please join and invite family and/or friends to sing with us. You do not have to be a member of DHPC to sing in the choir, just willing to make joyful noise! All are welcome!

PREPARING LUNCH FOR MERCY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, September 10, 12 PM

DHPC volunteers will be preparing lunch for our neighbors at Mercy Community Church on Sunday, September 10. If you would like to help prepare the meal, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/servingmercy>. If you have any questions, contact Eric Dusenbury (678.613.2886, eric.dusenbury@gmail.com).

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.

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>.

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

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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