



First Sunday after Epiphany, January 9, 2022

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.

Please fill out the pew card to let us know you are here and how we can pray for you. Cards may be placed in the offering and prayer request stands at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Family of God, to protect our community, all worshippers, vaccinated and unvaccinated, are required to mask.

GOD GATHERS US AROUND THE WORD

† *You are invited to stand when you see this symbol.*

PRELUDE

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”
Dr. Tony McNeill, piano

Doris Ackers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening

**All: We waited for the birth of Jesus;
now something wondrous is about to take root.**

*The shadows that invaded all lives were banished by the light of that star.
The shadows that surround us are gone!*

*Let us celebrate God’s bright shining love in our lives.
Let us become those who will bring the light of God’s love to others.*

† HYMN #143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(Stanzas 1, 2, and 3)

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
You, who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
(Refrain)

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
(Refrain)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF BROKENNESS

God of changed plans,

**The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—
a different path, an untraveled road.**

And to our amazement, they did just that.

The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way.

**We wish that change could be easy for us,
but more often than not, when whispers of change come,
we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.**

Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy.

Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home.

Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation.

(time for silent reflection)

POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

p 2 NT

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

SERMON

"Target Practice"

Rev. Elizabeth Soileau Acton

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.

Dedicating our Gifts to Combating Racism

For many of us it is a tradition to start a new year off by setting goals for ourselves that lead to desired self-improvement. This year, take that mindset of improvement into your fight for racial equity and justice. Evaluate whether or not your actions incorporate equity - even into the parts of your life where sometimes injustice can be easy to ignore. When you go out for dinner, seek out a black-owned restaurant. When you choose your next book, select voices beyond one dominating perspective. When you pause to recognize noteworthy days in our nation's history, add days important in the history of Black America to your list. Support people of color on a daily basis in your own community, your own places of work, your own schools. Injustice occurs every day across every area of our lives. This year, seek ways to combat the everyday injustices, not just the ones that inspire large-scale action.

ANTHEM

“Jesus the Light of the World” WE’LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

Hark! the herald angels sing. Jesus the light of the world.
Glory to the new-born King, Jesus the light of the world.

Refrain:

We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

All ye saints of light proclaim: Jesus the light of the world.
Love and justice in His name, Jesus the light of the world.
(Refrain)

Hear the Savior’s earnest call. Jesus the light of the world
Preach the gospel truth to all. Jesus the light of the world
(Refrain)

† DOXOLOGY #151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
(Refrain)

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 #749

Come! Live in the Light! (We Are Called)

WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,
So hatred and violence will be no more.
(Refrain)

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other,
As sisters and brothers united in love.
(Refrain)

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Notturmo

Edvard Grieg

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WORSHIP NOTES

Today's words of worship come from Teri McDowell Ott, ©Presbyterian Outlook, pres-outlook.org, and the Rev. Sarah Are Speed, ©Sanctified Art, sanctifiedart.org.

Today's bulletin art is *The Wise Men's Dream* by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, *inspired by Matthew 2:1-12*. Digital painting used by permission, ©Sanctified Art, sanctifiedart.org. Notes from the artist:

The Wise Men follow the direction of the shimmering, dotted lights of the night sky, and receive instruction in the subconscious world of sleep. They are ready and willing to discern God's will in the outward, tangible signs of Creation, as well as the inner contours of their own minds. God is in it all, and they are paying attention. Is this what it means to be wise?

In this image, the Wise Men are sleeping, and the viewer has a window into their vibrant dream. Surrounding the dream is the deep blue patterning of stars and hands pointing in every direction except for the direction of God's leading. These hands represent King Herod's desperate search and desire to take out this threatening, newborn King of the Jews. The Wise Men have a choice. They could succumb to the pressure of the King, which is thick in the air and pressing in all around them, or they could choose to listen to the mysterious guiding of their sleeping vision. They decide to change up the narrative and resist the domineering, violent powers of this world, trusting their dream, and taking the long, likely dangerous, journey home by another way.

Let us know you're here! If you are worshipping in person, please fill out the pew card and drop it in the offering boxes at either end of the sanctuary. If you are worshipping online, please drop a greeting in the comment section on Facebook or Vimeo.

PRAYERS

pray in condolence

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to **Dr. Tony McNeill**, DHPC's Music Artist in Residence, and his family on the death of his nephew **Travis Antonio McNeill** in San Francisco.

pray for our DHPC community

A number of our **DHPC community members or their family members have tested positive for Covid**. Prayers for minimal symptoms and swift healing for all those affected.

Maryann McGuire is at home with pneumonia.

May DeWees has been hospitalized since late December. On January 7, she left the ICU and returned to a regular room. May's medical team continues to treat her for pneumonia and a blood clot in her lung.

Joan Battaglin fell and fractured a vertebrae. Her recovery is moving more slowly than she and her family would like and she continues to have a significant amount of pain.

Tom Hagood is improving every day. His last report showed a burst Baker's cyst located behind his knee that gave the appearance of a blood clot. Tom reports he has healed with the help of prayers from DHPC and that he is now well enough to be removed from the prayer list.

Missie Grawert is recovering from a knee replacement and is enduring lingering pain. Prayers for healing and comfort. Missie is grateful that she is starting to show improvement.

Cynthia Middleton is continuing to grow stronger after her ankle surgery.

Miriam Herrera's recent CT scan showed she is doing well. She will return for another in February.

Adam Ralls is beginning to find some relief from his sciatica pain.

Wilma Ralls is experiencing memory and physical issues. She is living with her brother Adam, and her younger sister is also helping with her care.

Charles Middleton has ongoing chronic health issues, but is doing reasonably well at this time.

Lisa Carter appreciates our prayers for healing.

pray for our family and friends

JoAnn Kearns, DHPC bookkeeper, **Laurie Mosher and Carmenelo Nicastro**, friends of John David Hall, **Don and Dottie Nye**, former DHPC building manager and his wife (sister of Ivey Lois Hubert), **Gary Fittro**, Chris Escobar's father, **Allie Day and her family**, friend of Jane Weir, **Marjorie Hogeman**, Paula Thweatt's mother, **Patricia O Wallace**, Cynthia Middleton's sister, **Michele O. Rouse**, Cynthia Middleton's sister, **Regina Lowe**, Cynthia Middleton's niece, **Greg Hayes**, friend of Beth Thorn, **Carol Vigilante**, David Vigilante's mother, **Michael Woodside**, son of Helen Woodside, **Madelyn Magruder**, friend of Jane Martin, **Doris Thweatt**, Kenyon Thweatt's mother, **Sara Torres**, friend of Adam Ralls, **Rev. Brice Graves**, friend of Susan Hagood, **George Ports**, friend of Lauren Merceron, **Kathy Moore**, friend of the Armstrongs, **Allie Busby**, Renee Weese's mother, **Betsy Weir**, Jane Weir's sister, **Frannie Kidd**, Anne Townsley's daughter, **Tyler Szymczak**, Anne Townsley's grandson

WEEKLY UPDATE

Sunday, January 9

11:00 AM - *Worship — Sanctuary and Livestream*

12:00 PM - *Provide Lunch for Mercy Church*

Monday, January 10

4:30 PM - *Anti-Racism Protests at Emory Presbyterian*

Tuesday, January 11

10:30 AM - *Online Presbyterian Women Meeting*

- 5:00 PM - *P & A Virtual Meeting*
7:00 PM - *Online Presbyterian Women Meeting*

Wednesday, January 12

- 4:30 PM - *Anti-Racism Protests at Emory Presbyterian*
7:00 PM - *Online Youth Group*

Thursday, January 13

- 6:00 PM - *Mission Team Meeting*

Friday, January 14

- 11:30 AM - *Online Roundtable Adult Education Class*

Sunday, January 16

- 11:00 AM - *Worship — Sanctuary and Livestream*

STYROFOAM RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY

Today Sunday, January 9

After the gifts are exchanged on Christmas morning, there is likely a decent pile of trash left behind on your living room floor. To find out how to dispose of that pile in an Earth friendly manner, visit this [website](#). One thing that can't go in curbside recycling is styrofoam, but the Mission Team is here to help. Bring any styrofoam, big or small, to church and Mission Team members will get it to the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials for you. Please note we can accept packing peanuts, but they must be brought to the church in an [orange Hefty Energybag](#). Receptacles will be available outside of the Parlor this Sunday. Contact Bob Battaglin (battaglinr@yahoo.com) with questions.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MORNING AND EVENING CIRCLES

Tuesday, January 11, 10:30 AM and 7 PM; Online

Any and all women of the church are invited to join Presbyterian Women this month for fellowship and Bible Study. Marion Reeves will be teaching a Bible lesson focusing on the book of Ruth. New participants are always welcome! Both the morning and evening circles will meet online. The Zoom links can be found on the Weekly Zoom Links document which you can access through the e-newsletter. You may also contact Carol Wideman (widemankcm@yahoo.com) to receive the link or with any questions.

JOY OFFERING: THANK YOU

Thank you for your contributions to the Christmas Joy Offering, a special offering that provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. You gave \$445 to support this important ministry!

INTOWN COLLABORATIVE MINISTRIES: MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

The ICM Pantry works to reduce the impact of food insecurity for Atlantans living in DHPC's neighborhood and beyond. Donations help support ICM in this work. Whenever you can, grab a few extra items at the grocery. Here is an ICM grocery wish list: **canned chicken, tuna packets, ensure, individual cereal boxes, pasta sauce, shelf stable milk, peanut butter, jelly, canned veggies, instant coffee packets, and snack items.**

LIVESTREAMING & RECORDED WORSHIP

Begins Sundays, at 11 AM; DHPC Website

You may join the streaming services through the DHPC Facebook page (facebook.com/druidhillspresbyterian) or via the church website (www.dhpc.org) which will redirect to [Vimeo](#), at 11 AM on Sundays. The recording of worship will also be available after worship is complete. When you worship with us online, please let us know you were here by completing this 2-minute form: tinyurl.com/DHPCworship.

COFFEE & DONUT HOUR-ON COVID PAUSE

Due to the current Covid situation DHPC's coffee and donut fellowship time has been paused. We will resume as soon as we are able to more safely do so.

ONLINE ROUNDTABLE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FELLOWSHIP

Fridays, 11:30 AM; via Zoom (No class on 12/31.)

Adult learners are invited to gather in a time of fellowship, prayer, and reflection on the week's scripture led by Pete McGuire. The class will be offered entirely online via Zoom (info at bit.ly/DHPCZoomInfo).

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL-ON COVID PAUSE

Due to the current Covid situation the elementary Sunday school class has been paused. We will resume as soon as we are able to more safely do so.

ONLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Every Other Wednesday, 7 PM Middle school youth are invited to join Pastor Elizabeth for a weekly online check-in. Each week's conversation is unique and entertaining! Contact Elizabeth (eacton@dhpc.org) to join us.

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CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT DHPC

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.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

We are so grateful for the visitors (old and new) who add to our community each week. If you have visited the church and are interested in learning more about what it would look like to join, it's really easy; just talk with Pastor Elizabeth (eacton@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.

FOUR WAYS TO SUPPORT DHPC

1. Make a donation with your smartphone!

Text "DHPC Offering \$___ (the amount you want to give)" to 73256 to give using your text messaging. You can also use the drop down menu to select another fund. 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:

Pastor of Education and Mission: Rev. Elizabeth Soileau Acton, eacton@dhpc.org

Organist: Cliff Frierson, cfrierson@dhpc.org

Music Artist in Residence: Tony McNeill, tmcneill@dhpc.org

Facilities Manager: Mike Williams, mwilliams@dhpc.org

Communications and Hospitality Manager: Nate Baughman, nbaughman@dhpc.org

THE SESSION MINISTRY TEAMS AND CHAIRS

Christian Education: Gigi Muirheid

Congregational Life: Kirk Simpson

Finance: Betty McIntosh

Mission: Eric Dusenbury

Personnel: Missie Grawart

Worship: Suzette Stewart

Property and Administration:

Clerk of the Session: Vivian Hodo

Treasurer: Linda Davis

Elders Emeritae:

Cecile McRae Hooks, Belle Miller McMaster

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church

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