

First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

601 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Decatur, Georgia 30030

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*Resolve to Love * Agree to Differ * Unite to Serve * Break Bread Together*



10:25 AM, Sunday, February 19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

Worship Theme:

*God, you bring us together in this place,
we come to be fed,
to be renewed,
to seek understanding.*

*God, you challenge us in this place,
we embrace the challenge,
trusting that through challenge we grow in faith.*

*God, you are revealed in this place,
sometimes in shining glory,
sometimes in tears and struggle.*

*God as we worship in this place,
refresh, renew, and challenge us
so that we would see your awesomeness.*



We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Sharing of Theme

Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert

Prelude

"In Faith We Abide"

Adam Cole

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Daniel Brower

Opening Hymn

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

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1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

Call to Worship (Psalm 34:1-10, adapted)

Tom Rosenberger

One: Living Rock of Abundant Life,
the poor cried out;
you heard, and saved them from all their troubles.

**Many: To those who have nothing,
your promise is this:
whatever is needed will be given.**

One: Your eyes are on those who do justice,
and your ears are open to their voice.

**Many: To those who yearn for peace,
your promise is this:
whatever is needed will be given.**

One: Your arms enfold the brokenhearted,
and rescue those whose spirits are crushed.

**Many: To those who fear the future,
your promise is this:
whatever is needed will be given.**

**All: O taste and see how good God is!
Happy are those who take refuge in the Living Rock.**

Loving God, thank You that You are near to the brokenhearted and close to all who are crushed in spirit. Thank You for the testimony of the saints, that You are a faithful God, whose mercies are new every morning. We praise You that You are a God who not only saves but keeps and helps and comforts and provides for Your people. Thank You in Jesus' name, Amen!

Song of Praise:

Thy Word

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*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

We Receive and Respond to the Word

Holy Scriptures: Genesis 29:16-35

Tom Rosenberger

Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the Lord has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon. Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi. And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "This time I will praise the Lord." Therefore she called his name Judah.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Moments with Young People

Rev. Daniel Brower

Anthem *"He Never Said a Mumblin' Word" (John Carter)*

Trumpeter Dr. Isaiah Bell

Sermon *"Lonely, But Never Alone"*

Rev. Daniel Brower

We Remember and Celebrate as the Body of Christ

Communion Hymn *"I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table"*

424

1 I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,
I'm going to eat at the welcome table, Allelu.
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Allelu.

2 I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus,
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, Allelu.
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus,
I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus, Allelu.

3 I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers,
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, Allelu.
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers,
I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers, Allelu.

4 Here all the world will find a welcome,
Here all the world will find a welcome, Allelu.
Here all the world will find a welcome,
Here all the world will find a welcome, Allelu.

5 We're gonna feast on milk and honey,
We're gonna feast on milk and honey, Allelu.
We're gonna feast on milk and honey,
We're gonna feast on milk and honey, Allelu.

Invitation to Faithful Stewardship & Holy Communion

Rev. Daniel Brower

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Tom Rosenberger

(Christ invites you to partake of Holy Communion. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us. After the Words of Institution are proclaimed, you are invited to partake of the Bread and the Cup.)

One: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said.

Many: “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

One: In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

Many: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

God our help: We thank you for this supper, shared in the spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

We Are Led Out by the Spirit

Closing Hymn *“His Eye is on the Sparrow”*

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1 Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,
why should my heart be lonely,
and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

Refrain:

I sing because I’m happy,
I sing because I’m free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

2 “Let not your heart be troubled,”
his tender word I hear,
and resting on his goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path he leadeth,
but one step I may see;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. [Refrain]

Postlude

“Consider the Sparrow”

Adam Cole

Benediction

Rev. Daniel Bower

Online Giving

First Christian Church of Decatur is a spiritual community that transcends physical distance. In this unprecedented time, online giving is a positive way that this growing faith community can be supported.

As we often say in worship at the Invitation to Faithful Stewardship, “Those in need, please take; those with abundance, please give.” If and when you find yourself in need, please let us know so we might be of assistance. You matter to your Church, which is the Body of Christ. The missions of our church are imperative to nurture a hurt and hurting world.

For those who would like to give out of gratitude for all the Lord is doing in our lives, please use the QR code or click the following link: <https://www.osvhub.com/decaturn-disciples/giving/funds>

Thank you for your support and prayers.



Mark your Calendar



Sunday, February 19, 2023

Sun. Feb. 19 – Board Meeting – following Sunday service

Sun. Feb. 19 – Atlanta Musician's Orchestra performance in the Sanctuary – 2 PM

Tue. Feb. 21 – Mardi Gras Pancake Supper – 6 PM

Wed. Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday Service – 7 PM

Wed. Feb 22 – Handbell Choir Rehearsal/Practice – 8 PM

Feb. 23 & 25 – Chalice Thrift Open – 10 AM til 2 PM

Feb. 24–26 – Regional Youth Assembly – Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island

Sat. Mar. 4 - Elton John Sing-A-Long Concert featuring Adam Cole & His Band - 5 PM

Sun. Mar. 5 - Homecoming Sunday & Pastor's 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Reception following Sunday Service

Sun. Mar. 12 – Ministry Fair – After Worship

Welcome Statement

First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ) is an open and affirming congregation. We welcome everyone into full participation in the life and membership of the church.

Inspired and informed by God's love, mercy, and justice, we are purposefully involved in healing and helping our community and our world. We covenant with God and the greater community to nurture a spirit of love and service to neighbors, honor one another's differences, and fellowship in the breaking of the bread.

Actively striving to honor each other's race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, family configuration, political affiliation, economic circumstance, or theological perspective, we truly welcome all.

Ministers: All the People

Your Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. James L. Brewer-Calvert, *Senior Pastor*

Russell Broomfield-Ranney, *Church Bookkeeper*

Rev. Daniel Claire Brower, *Associate Pastor*

Adam Cole, *Organist*

William E. Garner, *Director of Music*

Kedric Kelly, *Facility Manager*

Leigh Reynolds, *Church Administrator*

Church Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 9 AM til 3 PM