



**First Christian Church of Decatur
(Disciples of Christ)**

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

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DecaturDisciples.org

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

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Worship theme

i used to think cathedrals were supposed to be dark
and gloomy,
invoking a mysterious God
who looms over me in judgement.

but then i learned
that they only grew dark with time and age
that they were built for light,
so colored light from the windows could bounce
against
the light stone walls,
invoking a mysterious God
who dances around us in glory.

i have been in this church when the walls were dark,
and now most of the church is light again.

but it has taken awkward moments
with plastic dust covers
and cranes
and caution tape

would that i could live to see
that restoration
that transfiguration
happen
in the Church.

—slats

We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Theme	Rev. Answai T. White-Burch
Prelude	Adam Cole
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Daniel C. Brower
Opening Hymn	<i>"I'll Praise My Maker"</i> 20

*1. I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
and when my voice is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past
while life and thought and being last,
or immortality endures.*

*2. How happy they whose hopes rely
on Israel's God, who made the sky
and earth and seas with all their train;
whose truth forever stands secure,
who saves the oppressed and feeds the poor,
and none shall find God's promise vain.*

*3. The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;
the Lord supports the fainting mind
and sends the laboring conscience peace.
God helps the stranger in distress,
the widowed and the powerless,
and grants the prisoner sweet release.*

*4. I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
and when my voice is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past
while life and thought and being last,
or immortality endures.*

Call to Worship(*Malcom Boyd*)

Rev. Answai T. White-Burch

One: Help us, Lord, who claim to be your special people.

Many: Don't let us feel selfish because you have called us to you.

One: Do not let us lose ourselves in church and forget those outside our walls.

Many: Save us from the sin of loving religion instead of you.

One: Teach us our responsibilities to you, each other, and all of your people.

Many: Let us love another as you have loved us.

Unison Prayer of Invocation
(Walter Rauschenbush, adapted)

Rev. Answai T. White-Burch

O God of all times and places, be with us this day. Baptize us afresh in the life-giving spirit of Jesus. Help us to proclaim boldly the coming of your kingdom. Fill us with Christlike tenderness for the suffering. Let us not seek our own lives, but lay them down in service to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Song of Praise

“Refrain From Christ Arose”

224

*Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes
He arose a victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! He arose! Alleluia, Christ arose!*

We Receive and Respond to the Word

Holy Scriptures

Lillie Sapp

Acts 20:7-12

On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. But Paul went down and bending over him took him in his arms and said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.” Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

Anthem

Hymn Sing

Sermon

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

Communion Hymn

“Blessed Assurance”

543

*1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
[Refrain]*

*2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
[Refrain]*

*3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]*

*[Refrain:]
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Invitation to Faithful Stewardship & Holy Communion

Lillie Sapp

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

(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.)

Words of Institution

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

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 this cup, you remember the Lord until He comes.

Unison Prayer of Commission

Lillie Sapp

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

“Go My Children With My Blessing”

431

*1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
in my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
go, my children, with my blessing you are my own.*

*2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure,
here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure;
here you heard my Son's dear story,
here you touched him, saw his glory,
go, my children, sins forgiven at peace and pure.*

*3. Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here his tender comfort stilled you;
go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.*

Postlude

Adam Cole

Benediction

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

Mark Your Calendars

Sundays – Rev. Stan Saunders Sunday School, Pathfinders, 9:30 AM

Sun, Apr 14 - Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary, following morning worship

Mon, Apr 15 - Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Thu Apr 25- Sat Apr 27 – Regional Assembly, Macon, GA

<https://www.gadisciples.org/regional-assembly-2024>

Welcome Statement

All In



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 the healing and helping of 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.

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 click the following link:

<https://www.osvhub.com/decaturdisciples/giving/funds>

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Ministers: All the People

Your Church Staff:

Rev. Daniel C. Brower, *Associate Pastor*

Russell Broomfield-Ranney, *Church Bookkeeper*

Adam Cole, *Organist*

Tanya Demjanec, *Church Administrator*

William E. Garner, *Director of Music*

Kedric Kelly, *Facility Manager*

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 3 pm