



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

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

404-378-3621

DecaturDisciples.org
fccdecatur@gmail.com

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

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Worship theme

This blessing does not have the power to raise you, but it knows how to reach you. It will come to you, sit down beside you, look you in the eye and ask if you want to live.

It has no illusions. This blessing knows it is an awful grace to be returned to this world.

Just ask Lazarus, whether he had to think twice about leaving the quiet, the stillness; whether he hesitated just for a moment before abandoning the place where nothing could harm or disturb.

Ask the risen if it gave them pause to choose this life – not as one thrust into it like a babe, unknowing, unasking, but this time with intent, with desire.

Ask them how it feels to claim this living, this waking; to welcome the breath in your lungs, the blood in your veins; to gladly consent to hold in your chest the beating heart of this broken and dazzling world.

—jan richardson

All In



We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Theme	Rev. Phil Foster
Prelude	Adam Cole
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Daniel C. Brower
Opening Hymn	<i>“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”</i> 5

*1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace!*

*2. Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.*

*3. My loving Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.*

*4. Glory to God and praise and love
be ever, ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.*

Call to Worship	Ruth Lutz
-----------------	-----------

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

Many: The Lord is my stronghold, of whom shall I be afraid?

One: Blessed be the Lord, who has heard my cries.

Many: The Lord is my strength and shield, in whom I trust.

One: Let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

Many: Let us worship the Lord together.

God of all consolation and compassion, your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary; your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may face despair and death with the hope of resurrection and faith in the One who called Lazarus forth from the grave. 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

Rev. Phil Foster

John 11:1-6, 11-44

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

After saying this, he told them, Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him. The disciples said to him, Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right. Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him. Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I

know that God will give you whatever you ask of him. Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise again. Martha said to him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? She said to him, Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

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

Installation and Appreciation of Church Leaders

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

Anthem

“Glory, Glory”

Choir

Sermon

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

1. *I love your church, O God,
on earth your blest abode,
the people our redeemer saved
with his own precious blood.*

2. *I love your church, O God,
whose walls before you stand,
dear as the apple of your eye,
and graven on your hand.*

3. *In love my tears shall fall,
in love my prayers ascend,
to serve your church, my toils be
given,
till toils and cares shall end.*

4. *Beyond my highest joys,
I prize your people's ways,
the sweet communion, solemn vows,
the hymns of love and praise.*

5. *Sure as your truth shall last,
to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield,
and brighter bliss of heaven.*

Invitation to Faithful Stewardship & Holy Communion

Rev. Phil Foster

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

Rev. Phil Foster

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

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

67

*1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!*

*2. Under the shadow of thy throne
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.*

*3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.*

*4. A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.*

*5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.*

*6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.*

Postlude

Adam Cole

Benediction

Rev. Daniel C. Brower

Mark Your Calendars

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

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

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

Sun, Apr 28 - Congregational Meeting, immediately following morning service

Sun, Apr 28 - Congregational Listening Session, following Congregational Meeting

Wed, May 1 - Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 PM

Sun, May 5 - Interim Regional Minister, Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes, Guest Speaker

Sun, May 5 - Willow School Spring Recital, Sanctuary

Sat, May 11 - Toy Park Cleanup Day, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tue, May 14 - Red Cross Blood Drive, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Fri, May 17 - Community Dinner, 6:00 PM

Sat, May 18 - Junk in the Trunk, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sat, May 18 - Robbin Marcus Spring Recital, Sanctuary

Sun, May 19 - Amy Wilson Spring Recital, Sanctuary

Sun, May 19 - Pentecost Sunday!

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