



DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Songs and Stories
For the Christmas Season**

December 29, 2024

Songs and Stories
For the Christmas Season
Sunday, December 29, 2024 11:00 AM
First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude *Tallis Canon* Alan Jones

Welcome John DeHority

Announcements

Chime

Call to Worship (Psalm for Praying #96 Nan C. Merrill) John DeHority

One: O sing to the Cosmos a new song;
sing to the Beloved, all the earth

**All: Sing to the Creator, and bless the Name above
all names; sing praises to the Glorious One from
day to day.**

One: Declare the splendor of the Radiant One to all
nations, the marvelous works of Love to all
peoples!

**All: For great is the Beloved, and greatly to be
praised; reverence Love above all else.**

One: For where your thoughts are, reveals that which
you treasure; seek only the true Treasure.

**All: Truth and integrity live with Love; strength and
beauty dwell with the Beloved.**

One: Yield to Love, O families of the earth, yield to
Love's glory and strength!

**All: Yield to Love and learn of justice; make of
yourselves an offering and be guided by Love!**

One: Bow down in adoration and holiness;

**All: for worthy is the Beloved to be praised in all the
earth!**

Hymn God of the Sparrow ROEDER
(*Music may be found on page 5.*)

Centering Prayer (*unison*)

A God becomes Child to save the children,
Shepherds chant with the tongue of Angels,
Salvation is described in a Mystery,
Heaven and Earth mingle into one Soul.

Prophecy is the point of a Star.
Cherubim bow with the neck of Shepherds.
A cave becomes the Gate of the Universe
While kings search for the bed of a Beggar.

A Maiden becomes the Mother of Grace;
Life has been given another Life.
The Child reaches out, takes hold of the world
And smiles the Innocent Smile.

In this Miracle all miracles are born -
The blind receive sight and the deaf have song,
The cold and homeless have shelter
And pilgrims cease their wanderings.
In this Creation all creation is born
And all creatures have a voice.
We find ourselves kneeling alongside the Magi.

The Child turns, looks and recognizes.

First Scripture:

Hebrews 2:10-13

Reading from *The Message*
Eugene Peterson

A Children's Story

John DeHority

Where? Where are you from?

Author: Jordon Collins

Illustrated by: Phil Lesnie

Hymn

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace
(*Music may be found on page 6.*)

NATURE OF GOD

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:43-48

22

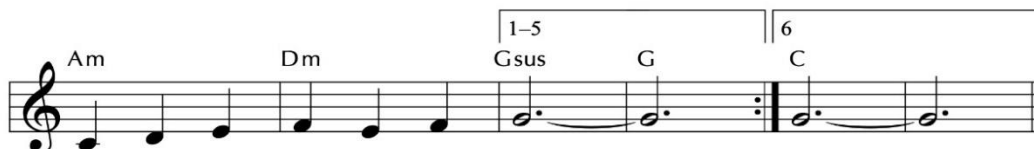
God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

265

1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace
 2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold
 3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace
 4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims

the bold de - signs of far - thest space,
 earth's mys - teries known or yet un - told,
 all now de - spised for creed or race,
 one fam - ily with a bil - lion names,

let sun and moon and stars and light
 let wa - ters frag - ile blend with air,
 let peace, de - scend - ing like a dove,
 let ev - ery life be touched by grace

and what lies hid - den praise your might,
 en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
 make known on earth your heal - ing love.
 un - til we praise you face to face.

Words: Jeffery W. Rowthorn 1974

Music: adapt. from Franz Joseph Haydn 1798

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CREATION

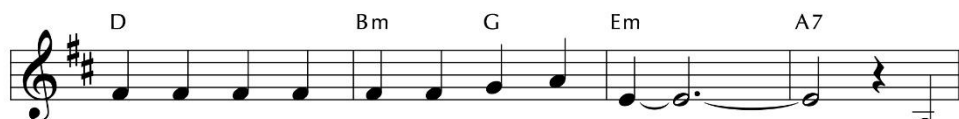
8 8 8 8

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
 dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.



3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so



much to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, and a whole rest, followed by G4, A4, B4, and a whole note G4. The second staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, and a whole note G4, followed by a whole note F#4, and then a whole note B3. The lyrics are: "un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be".

The third staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, and a whole note G4, followed by a whole note F#4, and then a whole note B3. The lyrics are: "loved as to love with all my soul.".

Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Em, F#m, Bm, E, E7, A, E, A, A7.

to Stanza 4

Welcome Visitors!

*** An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



+We seek to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary— please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position to utilize this option.

Joys and Concerns— If you have a joy or concern that you would like lifted in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request Card (available by the worship bulletins). The Cards will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the pastor.

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Do you have an interest in becoming a member of DUPC? You can speak with an Usher or the pastor. They would be happy to give you more information.

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)
F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)
Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH
9.9.10.9.9.8

Joy is Now in Every Place

Joy is now in every place,
Christmas lightens every face;
now be with us, in your grace,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

May the star that shone that night,
making your poor stable bright,
fill our hearts with love and light,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Through the New Year let it stay,
leading us upon your way,
making Christmas every day,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Now and ever may we find
your good news to fill our minds:
peace and love to humankind,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

(Author unknown)



This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian

<u>Sunday, December 29</u> 10:00AM Music Warm-up 10:45AM Nursery 11:00AM Worship-John Dehority 12:00PM Coffee Hour in Sanctuary <u>Tuesday, December 31</u> <i>New Year's Eve</i>  <i>Happy New Year</i>	<u>Wednesday, January 1, 2025</u> <i>New Year's Day - Building Closed</i> <u>Thursday, January 5</u> 7:15PM Worship Team Mtg via Zoom <u>Sunday, January 5</u> 10:00AM Choir Warm-up 10:45AM Nursery 11:00AM Worship - Pastor Phil 11:15AM Sunday School 12:00PM Refreshments in Sanctuary
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Sunday Forums in January

Sunday, January 5th
No Sunday Forum

Sunday, January 12th
An Introduction to the Reverend Carson Mouser
Bob Richane and David Lee

Rev. Mouser will be working with our congregation
to discern who we are now in 2025.
What makes us unique and what is God calling us to do?

Sunday, January 19th
No Sunday Forum Planned
Rev. Carson Mouser to lead Worship

Sunday, January 26th
My Spiritual Journey
Bob Richane

The Downtown Church Staff

Keisha Betts, Office Administrator
Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
The Rev. Philip B. Davis, Sr.,
Stated Supply Pastor
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
David Mear, Business Manager
Moses Nhial, Maintenance

Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance
Robin Sheikh, Sunday School Teacher
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet, Clerks of Session

Henry Ehindero, Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Philip B. Davis,
Moderator
Nancy Brown
David Lee
Bob Richane
Sally Allison
Sam King
Jim Vesper

Deacons

Bob Carlisle
Andrea Folan
Elizabeth Kats
Elaine Johnson
Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Carol Samuel
Kelley Sheils

Marilyn Terpening
Sandy Morales
Helen Ganotis

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