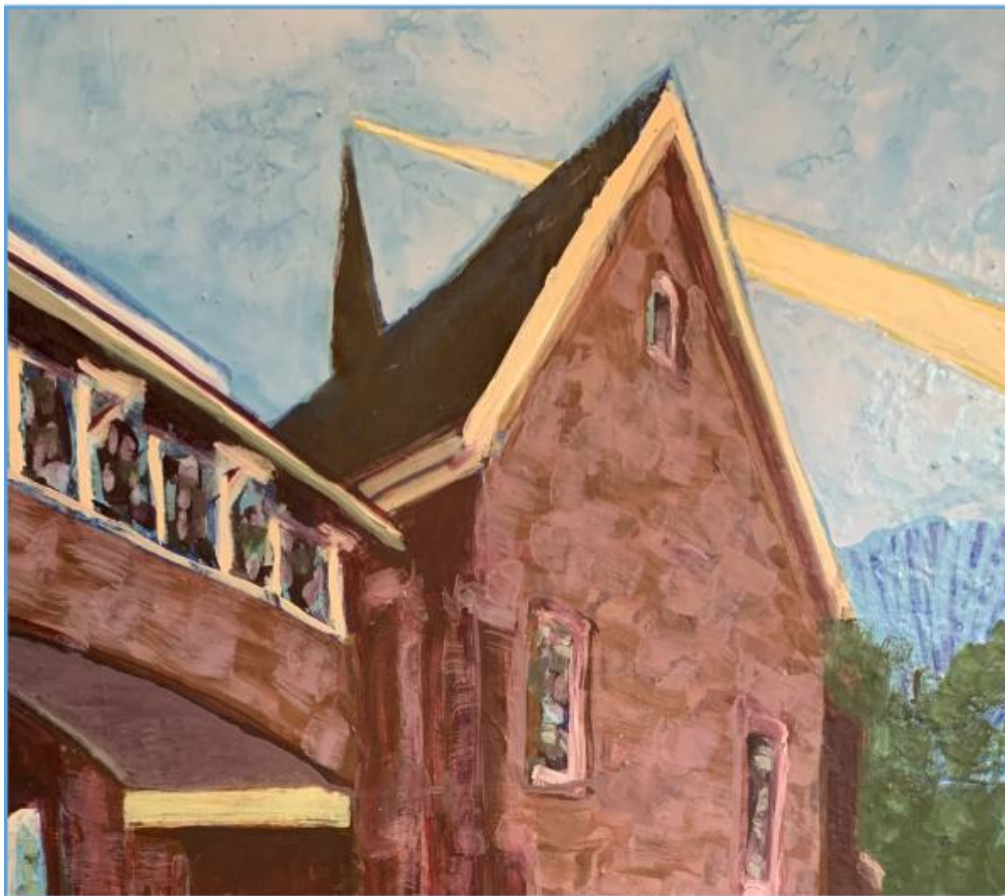




## Doylestown Presbyterian Church



*Be Beacon Bearers*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*

December 14, 2025  
10:30 am

# All Are Welcome in God's House

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## Third Sunday of Advent

### People's Preparation

*"Advent" means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God's justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come—Jesus Christ our Savior.*

*The origin of the season of Advent is uncertain. It may have been patterned after the season of Lent as a period of penitence before Christmas, or as a time of preparation for baptism at Epiphany - The PC(USA) Book of Common Worship (2018)*

### The Chimes

### Welcome and Announcements

*(Persons nearest the center aisle are asked to sign and pass the Act of Friendship pad toward the outside aisle. Please keep the cover open as the pad is returned.)*

### Prelude

*Noel*  
Joyful Bells with Eileen Telly, violin & Sharon Shaw, flute

Holst/Wood

### Lighting of the Candles of the Advent Wreath

Ron and Debbie Blough

We anticipate and long for the coming light of Christ.

**Our prayer is this: Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.**

Our Advent theme is a call to be beacon bearers: To receive and share light in the darkness.

On this third Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of Joy.

**The psalmist writes, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."**

Let us worship God.

### \*Hymn 93

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

### Advent Response: *Light Looked Down*

Light looked down and saw darkness.

**"I will go there," said Light.**

Peace looked down and saw war.

**"I will go there," said Peace.**

Love looked down and saw hatred.

**"I will go there," said Love.**

So he, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love,  
came down and crept in beside us.

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come.**

*\* Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**Bolded** text invites the congregation to respond.

\*Congregational Response      *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*



\*The Sharing of the Peace of Christ

The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you. **And also with you.**

Time with the Children

*(After the message, children ages four through sixth grade may leave for Children's Worship Time.  
Parents may pick up their children in Room 207 and the Youth Room, located across the bridge,  
following worship.)*

First Scripture Lesson: Matthew 11:2-15

Pew Bible, NRSV (NT), p. 11

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*(Ushers will collect prayer request cards during the anthem.)*

Anthem

*O Nata Lux*  
Chancel Choir

Douglas Byler

*O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
Mercifully deign to accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants.*

*O you who once deigned to be hidden in flesh on behalf of the lost,  
Grant us to be made members of your blessed body.*

Prayer of Illumination

Second Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:46-55

Pew Bible, NRSV (NT), p. 57

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“Be Beacon Bearers: My Soul Magnifies”

Rev. Dr. Mac Schafer

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

(To give online or via text message, click the "Give" tab at the top of our website, or scan the code on the right.)



Offertory

*The First Noel*  
Eve Sheldon

\*Congregational Response

*Jesus, the Light of the World*



\*Prayer of Dedication

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Welcome to the Lord's Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

**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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

*(We will share in communion by intinction. You will be invited to come down the center aisle by an usher, receive a wafer, dip the wafer into the cup, and eat as you return by the side aisle to your seat. A gluten-free wafer station will be available on the left at the front of the sanctuary. If you are unable to come forward, we will bring the elements to you.)*

Closing Prayer

\*Hymn

*Magnificat*  
(See insert)

FINLANDIA

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*Postlude on "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

arr. D. Willcocks

**Assisting:** Rev. Becca Bateman **Lay Leader:** Tom Maclin

**On the Cover:** *Be Beacon Bearers* by David Ohlerking, 2025



**Be Knit Together: 2026 Generosity Campaign Update:** Six weeks after Commitment Sunday we are grateful to those of you who have pledged your time, abilities and financial resources for the upcoming year. We have a goal of exceeding 263 households pledging, for approximately \$1.4 million. As of December 10, we have received 238 pledges for \$1,294,577. This dollar amount

along with additional income sources would fund the 2026 annual budget. Thanks be to God, for we “who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually are members one of another.” (Romans 12:5) If you have not already submitted your pledge, you can scan the QR code to the right, put your pledge in the offering plate or mail it into the office. Thank you for your prayerful discernment.



**Christian Sympathy.** The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the friends and family of Doris Carr on her death on December 8. We hold them in prayer in this time of loss.

**New visitors** to DPC are invited to pick up a **Welcome Bag** available in the narthex inside the red doors. Thank you for joining us today!

**I would like to make \_\_\_\_\_ donation(s) at \$15 each.**

PLEASE PRINT

In memory of *(names of deceased only)*:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of *(names of honorees only)*:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Branch of service *(if honoring or remembering a veteran)*:

\_\_\_\_\_

Requested by *(how you want your name listed)*:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



The sanctuary will be decorated and wreathes will be placed on the graves of veterans in the DPC graveyard. If you would like to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone to make these decorations possible, please make checks payable to DPC and specify “Christmas Decorations”, mail to the office or place in the offering plate. A donation of \$15 is requested. Memorials will be listed in the **December 21** and **Christmas Eve bulletins**. All names must be submitted to the church office by **this Monday, December 15.**



# DPC AT A GLANCE



**Today** is your last chance to visit the wonderful **Mission Market**, following both services in the Celtic Cross Room, and the **Giving Tree**, on the bridge.

Both the Market and the Tree offer the chance to help those in need and support charitable organizations.



## Eco-Friendly Holiday Shopping.

DPC's Earth Care Team invites you to read this insightful article from climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe about differentiating between companies that claim to be eco-friendly, and those that are truly committed. Scan this code to read.



## Garber's Green Pastures.

DPC's Earth Care Team is offering you the opportunity to own a lithograph of the Daniel Garber painting "Green Pastures." The original work

hangs in the DPC Narthex opposite the red entry doors. The proceeds will be used to purchase native plantings for the DPC campus. Lithographs may be purchased **today** at the Mission Market in the Celtic Cross Room.



## The Festival of Lessons and Carols

**December 21** at 1:30 pm. Join in the sanctuary as our music ensembles shine the light of Christ in this beloved annual tradition. No tickets required.



The dedicated crew of **Caring For Friends** volunteers will be in the Andrews Hall kitchen at 9:15 am on Tuesday, **December 23** to prepare meals for the homebound. New faces are always welcome for this fun,

rewarding effort, so feel free to stop by. Visit [bit.ly/DPC-CFF-DEC](http://bit.ly/DPC-CFF-DEC) to sign up!



## DPC Dads' Drive-Thru Nativity.

On **December 19**, travel down Mechanics Street between 5:30 and 6:30 pm to be transported to Bethlehem from the comfort of your own car! Experience the

sights, sounds, and animals along the way! Donations to be collected to benefit Code Blue.



## Food Drive and Community Meal.

The next Food Drive to help stock the shelves of the Doylestown Food Pantry will be **December 21**. Please bring

donations to the lobby that morning. At noon, join in Fellowship hall for a special Christmas Community Meal with music from Bev and Jeff Fulgham. To volunteer or donate to the meal, visit [bit.ly/DPC-CM](http://bit.ly/DPC-CM).



On Sunday, **December 28**, there will be a **single worship service at 9:30 am**. No Sunday school classes (for all

ages) that day but Children's Worship Time and CWT+ will still occur during the service.



**2026 Offering Envelopes.** People give to DPC in many ways: some give electronically, some put checks or cash in the offering plate, some are mailed, and others use the offering box envelopes. All methods of giving are a wonderful gift to DPC. If you have a box for 2025, we have designated a 2026 offering envelope box for you. They are now available to be picked up outside the church office in Andrews Hall. If you didn't have envelopes this year, and would like to have a box for 2026, please add your name to the list on the table or contact Linay Richards – [linayr@dtownpc.org](mailto:linayr@dtownpc.org). She will assign a box for you to pick up the following Sunday.



**Celebrate the Arts: Winter Blessings.** The next visual art display in the Celtic Cross Room happens January 8 to March 5, but now is the time to start

thinking about your submissions. *Winter Blessings* will focus on winter scenes, landscapes, people enjoying the snow, ice skating, or sledding outdoors, or enjoying the holidays indoors by the fireplace. These can be photos or artwork with hanging wire attached to the back. Artwork can be dropped off at the church office beginning **January 5** with pieces set to be hung on January 8.



**Give Blood, Save Lives.** DPC will be hosting a Blood Drive for the American Red Cross on Tuesday, **December 30** from 11 am - 4 pm in Fellowship Hall. To sign up, visit

[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code "Doylestown presby" or email [dpc@dtownpc.org](mailto:dpc@dtownpc.org) with the subject "Blood Drive."



**Exploration of Pathways to Immigration Justice.** The DPC Peace & Justice Subcommittee will be hosting a series of 4 educational talks by outside speakers on

immigration issues on **Sundays in January**. The first three talks will take place in the Celtic Cross Room during the education hour from 9:30-10:15. The final talk will take place on Jan. 25 at 4 pm. For an overview of the speakers and their specific topics, visit [www.dtownpc.org/immigration-justice](http://www.dtownpc.org/immigration-justice) Please plan on attending one or all of these discussions which we hope will enable DPC and community members to develop a more accurate and better understanding of the immigration issue which is currently very much in our daily news.



## Christmas Eve Services

**3:00 pm - Nativity & Candlelight Service**  
Special Christmas music by the Sunshine Singers and Celebration Singers

**5:00 pm - Candlelight Service**  
Special Christmas music by the Youth Choir  
(Childcare available)

**8:00 pm - Candlelight Communion Service**  
Special Christmas music by the Chancel Choir  
(Livestream available)

## Children and Youth Sunday School

**9:30 - 10:15 am in Andrews Hall**

**DPC Nursery:** Open to children 9 months to 2

**Little Lambs:** Ages 2 to Pre-K in the Nursery

**Younger Elementary:** K to 2nd grade in Room 211

**Older Elementary:** Grades 3-5 in the Room 203

**Middle School:** Grades 6-8 in Youth Room 202

## During 10:30 am Worship Service

**DPC Nursery:** Ages 9 months to age 4

**Children's Worship Time (CWT):** Ages 4 to 2nd grade in Room 207

**CWT+:** Grades 3 to 6 in Youth Room 202

## Evening Groups for Children and Youth

### Sunshine Singers:

Ages 4 to 1st Grade, Wednesdays @4:30 in Room 213

### Celebration Choir/Wednesday Club

All children in 2nd through 6th Grade. Wednesdays. Choir/Bells @5pm,  
Food, faith and fun @5:30 - 6:30 pm. **This week:** Pageant rehearsal this week, 5:30-6:30 pm.  
Dinner included. Sunshine Singers & Celebration Choir rehearse at regular times.  
Wednesday Club resumes January 14.

### DPC Youth: Grades 6 - 12

**Confirmation:** Open to Grades 8+ @4:30 - 7:30 pm

Bells/Choir @5pm, Dinner @5:45, Fellowship @6:15 - 7:30 pm

**This week:** Youth Choir rehearsal 4-5 pm. Youth Choir Christmas Party follows 5-6 pm.

Element Youth Group Christmas Party is 5:45-7:30 pm. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift between \$5 & \$10. We'll be decorating gingerbread houses too!

## Adult Education Offerings

### Good News and Other News

**9:30 am, Ruth I. Hughes Memorial Library, AH**

Current events are discussed while reflecting upon the story from the perspective of faith.

### The Word Among Us - 9:15 am, AH-213

The Word Among Us focuses this season on the Book of Luke and later exploring the Book of Mark. Join us as we study and appreciate the beauty of Scripture and how we can use it in our own devotional times with God. *Led by Dick Cornelius and Margaret Thoresen.*



*Be a bridge for Christ and  
a beacon of His love.*



[www.dtownpc.org](http://www.dtownpc.org) 215-348-3531