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 \oplus Agree to Differ \oplus Unite to Serve \oplus Break Bread Together

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Worship Theme:

I know that sometimes people drop change from their pockets; that it might mean nothing.

I believe that sometimes those little coins show up as a sign; that it means something.

I know that clouds are naturally formed from water and wind; that they might mean nothing.

I believe that often they look like shapes that I know; and that means something.

I know that God is real and active in the world;

but knowing means nothing.

I believe that God cares for us and calls us to love; and believing means everything.



We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Theme Ryan McGinness

Prelude Kathy Westbrook

Welcome, Announcements Rev. Daniel Brower

† Opening Hymn "My Hope is Built" 537

† Call to Worship (by Katherine Hawker) Ryan McGinness

One:Come to hear the Word!

Many:Come to do the Word.

One:Come to experience comfort.

Many:Come to experience challenge.

One:Come to find cost.

Many:Come to find joy!

One:Come to find humanity.

Many:Come to find community.

One:Come to find church. **Many:Come to find God.**

† Unison Prayer of Invocation

Ryan McGinness

Holy Lord, maker of us all, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves and teach us that faith without works is dead. Open us to the opportunities for ministry that lie before us, where faith and words and the need of our neighbor come together in name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

* Song of Praise

"Refrain from We Three Kings"

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O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

We Receive and Respond to The Word

Holy Scriptures

Ruth 1:8-17 Ryan McGinness

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

James 2:14-20

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is worthless?

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 Brower

Anthem

Congregational Hymn Sing

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Brower

Communion Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation"

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Invitation to Faithful Stewardship & Holy Communion Rev. Daniel Brower

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Ryan McGinness

(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 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

Ryan McGinness

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 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

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Postlude Kathy Westbrook

Benediction Rev. Daniel Brower

* You are invited to stand.

Bring Friends and Enthusiasm!

Sundays – Rev. Stan Saunders Sunday School, Pathfinders, 9:30 AM Mon, Jan 20 – 2025 First Christian Church of Decatur Board Retreat Mon, Jan 20 – American Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Wed, Jan 22 – Handbell Choir Spring Season, Music Room, 7:00 PM Fri, Jan 25 – Sun, Feb 2 – 2025 Regional Youth Assembly, Epworth by the Sea Sun, Jan 26 – Break Bread Together and Church Timeline Workshop with Rev. Lee Carroll

Thu, Jan 30 – Transition Team Meeting, Zoom

Sun, Feb 9 – Greeter Training, 9:15 AM

Sun, Feb 16 – Visioning Retreat with Rev. Scott Woolridge, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Fri, Feb 21 - Sun, Feb 23 – 2025 Disciples Women's Retreat, Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge

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 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 **L** Stewardship, "Those in need, please take; those with **T**• 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, Interim Minister

Russell Broomfield-Ranney, Church Bookkeeper
Adam Cole, Organist
Tanya DePree, Church Administrator
William E. Garner, Director of Music
Kedric Kelly, Facility Manager
Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 3 pm