



**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, March 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent**

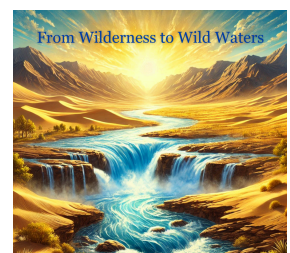
Worship Theme:

There are perhaps three stages in contemplative awareness or attunement.
In the first we hear the words but not the music. ...
We know the “right” answers, the “correct” lines,
the “proper” behavior and wording for life.
We live by rote, mouthing the words,
unaware of the depth of melody flowing inside. ...

As we grow in contemplative awareness,
however, we hear the words and the music. ...
We pause now and then to hear the deep-down music
God plays within and around us.
We’re like one who sits in the audience and listens appreciatively.

Finally, in the third stage of attunement, we become the music. ...
As we enter the deeper levels of contemplation,
we cease hearing the music and become the music.
We leave our chair in the audience and enter the symphony.

- from *When the Heart Waits* by Sue Monk Kidd



We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Theme Rev. Phil Foster

Prelude Adam Cole

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Daniel Brower

Passing the Peace

† Opening Hymn *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”* **25**

† Call to Worship *(by Thomas Pilgrim)* Justin Floyd

One: We gather here to celebrate Christ, sent to be the word of life for us.

Many: May our hearts be touched and filled with the love of Christ and the reality of his word.

One: We are called to be brothers, sisters, siblings in the family of God.

Many: We join in worship, service, and fellowship, seeking to be the church of God in spirit and in truth.

† Unison Prayer of Invocation *(by Thomas Pilgrim)* Justin Floyd

Almighty God, as we think of the journey of our Lord in this season of Lent, enable us to travel with him, watch with him, pray with him, that we would know the reality of Christ's presence in the world and in our lives today. We ask all of this in his name, Amen.

† Song of Praise *“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”* **627**

*I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me
All along life's pilgrim journey
I want Jesus to walk with me.*

We Receive and Respond to The Word

Holy Scriptures

Mark 1:21-28

Justin Floyd

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Rev. Daniel Brower

Anthem

"We Are Not Alone"

Allison Woolridge
& Chancel Choir

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Brower

Communion Hymn

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

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Invitation to Faithful Stewardship
& Holy Communion

Rev. Phil Foster

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Rev. Daniel 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. Phil Foster

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. Daniel Brower

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

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

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Postlude

Adam Cole

Benediction

Rev. Daniel Brower

† *You are invited to stand.*

Bring Friends and Enthusiasm!

Sundays – Rev. Stan Saunders Sunday School, Pathfinders, 9:15 am

Sun, Mar 23 – Congregational Meeting, following Worship Service

Sun, Mar 23 – Transition Team Meeting, following Congregational Meeting

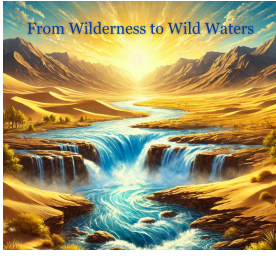
Sun, Mar 23 – Willow School Honors Recital, Sanctuary, 1:00 pm

Mon, Mar 24 – Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sat, Mar 29 – Billy Joel Singalong, Sanctuary, 4:00 pm

Sun, Mar 30 – Chalice Thrift Seasonal Changeover

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 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, *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, 9 am to 3 pm