



**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 6, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Worship Theme:

You satisfy this cry of what I'm looking for
And I'll take all I can and lay it down before
The throne of endless grace now that radiates what's true
I'm in the only place that erases
all these faults that have overtaken me
but I know that Your response will always be
"I'll take you back

Always

Even when your fight is over
Even when the pain is coming through."
I can only speak with a grateful heart
As I'm pierced by this gift of Your love
I will always bring an offering
I can never thank You enough



- *Take You Back* by Jeremy Camp

We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Theme	Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler
Prelude	Adam Cole
Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert
Passing the Peace	
† Opening Hymn	<i>“Wind Upon the Waters”</i> 247
† Call to Worship	Ruth Lutz

One: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving,
reconciling love of God.

**Many: For once we were lost and felt so far
away; now we have been found and
welcomed home.**

One: Know that God’s love is lavished upon you
forever.

**Many: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness
and hope!**

One: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of
Love.

Many: Let us praise God together!

† Unison Prayer of Invocation (*by Thomas Pilgrim*) Ruth Lutz

**God in heaven, as we think about your Son and our Savior moving toward
the cross and his date with destiny, fill our minds with a new and deeper
understanding of his love and grace. May we travel with Christ down roads
of deeper commitment. We ask 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

Luke 11:15-32

Ruth Lutz

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.” So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, “How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe, the best one, and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler

Communion Hymn

“We Come as Guest Invited”

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Invitation to Faithful Stewardship
& Holy Communion

Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler

(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. Dr. Jennifer Hasler

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. Betty Brewer-Calvert

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

“To God Be the Glory”

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Postlude

Adam Cole

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler

† *You are invited to stand.*

Bring Friends and Enthusiasm!

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

Sun, Apr 13 Break Bread Together: Palms & Priorities, Fellowship Hall,
following Worship Service

Wed, Apr 16 Chancel Choir Practice, *7:00 pm*

Thu, Apr 17 Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall, *10:00 am - 3:00 pm*

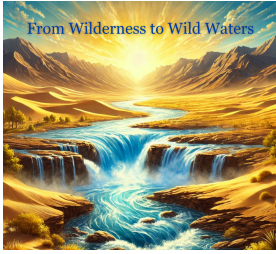
Thu, Apr 17 Maundy Thursday Service, *7:00 pm*

Fri, Apr 18 Good Friday Service on the lawn, *7:00 pm*

Sun, Apr 20 Easter Sunday Worship!

Sat, May 3 Walk & Roll 2025, Oakhurst Square, *10:00 am - 12:00 pm*

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