

February 23, 2025  
The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
9:00 a.m. *Worship in the Sanctuary*



# DONEGAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*founded prior to 1721*

*“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”*

Luke 6:36 NRSV

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE “Prelude on Finlandia” *Jean Sibelius*  
*“As the prelude begins, please observe a time of quietness in preparation for worship.”*

### Gathering in God’s Name

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 37:4-5, 7, 39

Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.

**Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God’s actions.**

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

**The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.**

\*HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #611

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.  
Love divine is reigning o’er us, joining all in heaven’s plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted in your promises. Too often, we have loved only those who love us. Our kindness has been shown only to those who are kind to us. Sometimes our generosity is hemmed in by the expectations we hold of others.**

**Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love.**

**Change our lives by your matchless grace.**

*(Silent Confession)*

In Christ’s name we pray...

**Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

#581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

**Proclaiming God's Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

p. 773

- <sup>1</sup>Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
<sup>2</sup>for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.
- <sup>3</sup>Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- <sup>4</sup>Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.
- <sup>6</sup>He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- <sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.
- <sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- <sup>9</sup>For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the  
land.
- <sup>10</sup>Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look diligently for their place, they will not  
be there.
- <sup>11</sup>But the meek shall inherit the land,  
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
- <sup>39</sup>The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;  
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
- <sup>40</sup>The LORD helps them and rescues them;

he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,  
because they take refuge in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Come, Thou Fount”

*Wyeth, arr. Courtney*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:27-38

p. 90

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Living into Our Nature”

Matt Randolph

## Responding to God's Word

\*HYMN "This Is My Song" #340

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands a far and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My countries skies are bluer than the ocean,  
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
3. This is my prayer, O lord of all earth's kingdoms:  
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.  
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,  
and hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:  
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (traditional "debts") hymnal p. 35

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord,  
Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.*

## GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Hymn" *Rebikov*

\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him, above ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Sending in God's Name

\*HYMN "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #306

1. Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes;  
our mutual burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.
5. From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*EXTENSION OF PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior go with you all.  
**And also with you.**

CHORAL RESPONSE "Grace of the Lord" *H. Balcombe*

POSTLUDE "Ode to Joy" *Beethoven*

*\*All those who are able may stand.*

## Reflection for the Christian Life

How has God sent you to be a preserver of what is good and healthy?

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TODAY Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany, Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- **TODAY Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall, between Services. This week's snacks provided by Peggy Randolph & Pat Garrigan
- **TODAY Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Children's Sunday School 10:20 a.m. No Adult Sunday School
- **TODAY Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Celtic Sabbath in the Fellowship Hall, 11:15 a.m.
- **Monday February 24<sup>th</sup>**, Boy Scouts Troop 53
- **Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, Presbytery Meeting (virtual)
- **Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, Cub Scouts Pack 150
- **Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**, Men's Breakfast, Gus's Keystone Restaurant, 7:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**, Staff Meeting, Conference Room, 9:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**, Hospitality Meeting, Conference Room, 11:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**, DOT ~ ECHOS Meal Prep, Fellowship Hall, 12:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**, Choir Practice, Choir Room, 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Eighth Sunday after Epiphany, Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall, between Services.
- **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Adult and Children's Sunday School, 10:20 a.m.
- **Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Celtic Sabbath in the Fellowship Hall, 11:15 a.m.

### *Upcoming Events:*

- **March 5<sup>th</sup>**, Ash Wednesday
- **March 9<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>**, Potluck Dinner with Lenten Jeopardy
- **April 6<sup>th</sup>**, Music at Donegal Series: Paloma Dance Troupe
- **April 12<sup>th</sup>**, Fishing Derby and Pancake Breakfast