



*We welcome all.*

*North Decatur Presbyterian Church is called by God to be a community of faith and worship, dedicated to Christian education and nurture so that we may go into the world to serve, work for peace and justice and share God's love with all people.*

611 Medlock Road, Decatur, GA 30033  
www.ndpc.org

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 22, 2020  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
11:00AM

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### PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" William Bradbury

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please 'like' us or leave a comment on Facebook to let us know you worshipped with us.*

### \*CANDLE LIGHTING & CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let's praise God together!

**For God is great, and merciful beyond measure!**

Let's tell stories of God's power and majesty;

God's mighty acts throughout history:

**for God is great, and patient beyond measure!**

Let's remember the compassion God has shown toward us;

God's unfailing love, generation after generation:

**for God is great, and merciful beyond measure!**

Let's pass these stories along to our children and grandchildren,  
so that they, too, may come to know and love God.

**for God is great, and God's love is beyond measure.**

**Let's worship God together!**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto Me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I’ll walk till trav’ling days are done.**

Text: Horatious Bonar, 1946, alt. Music: English County Songs, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Public Domain.

### **RECONCILIATION**

#### INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

*Sit comfortably, giving thanks for the seat that holds you up and the gravity that holds you down. Unburden your hands and let them rest. Breathe deeply, and bring your attention to your heart. Notice what you are carrying in your heart this morning. What feelings or physical sensations do you sense? Be with whatever it is you are sensing. Be aware of your heart as the site where the tenderness of divine mercy flows through you. Allow your heart to soften by the presence of the Love, cherishing you, welcoming you exactly as you are.*

Into your hands, O Christ  
This heart.

Into your hands, O Christ  
This judgment.

Into your hands, O Christ  
This untruth.

Into your hands, O Christ  
This grief.

Into your hands, O Christ  
This fear.

Into your hands, O Christ  
This hope.

Into your hands, O Christ  
All this.

Into your hands, O Christ  
What is left,  
What is left  
Of me.

*-From the St. Hilda Community*

SILENT PRAYERS

*In the quiet, reflect on the ways that God's mercy softens every heart, even your own.*

SUNG RESPONSE #577

"Lord, Have Mercy"  
**Kyrie eleison.**

KYRIE ELEISON

\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

-Psalm 85

Mercy and truth at last have met. Justice and Peace are reconciled.  
Truth has arisen from the earth.  
Justice looked down from heaven and smiled.  
**In Christ Jesus we are forgiven, loved, and freed.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

*We share the peace as a visible sign of our reconciliation to each other through Christ.  
Greet one another with "the peace of Christ be with you" and reply "also with you."*

*Feel free to post a greeting or a heart on Facebook.*

**PROCLAMATION**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Ruth Cunningham

"Come, Light of Lights"  
**Come, light of lights, into my heart.  
Come, wisdom of spirit, into my heart.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:36-50

<sup>36</sup> When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup> A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. <sup>38</sup> As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. <sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."  
<sup>40</sup> Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."  
"Tell me, teacher," he said.  
<sup>41</sup> "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"  
<sup>43</sup> Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."  
"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.  
<sup>44</sup> Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. <sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."  
<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."  
<sup>49</sup> The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"  
<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

This is the Word of God for us, the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**DEDICATION**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE &amp; THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bidding Prayer:

God in your mercy: **Hear Our Prayer.**

**Our Father [Mother] in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.**

PRAYER RESPONSE #564

"Amen"

*Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert*

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

## CALL FOR OFFERING

*Change for Change**Make a habit of giving something each week -**a small bill or loose change or an intention of service to God and neighbor.**This month our loose change offering will go to the **RIP Medical Debt** to remove the burden  
of medical debt for individuals and families in our community.**For more information visit [ripmedicaldebt.org](http://ripmedicaldebt.org).**A little bit of giving by a lot of people: It's worth the effort.**You can donate online today by visiting [ndpc.org](http://ndpc.org) and clicking on the top right corner of the  
webpage where it says "Donate."*

\*HYMN #475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

**Come thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
 Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
 praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I come;  
 and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
 Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
 he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
 Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

*"Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's  
 assistance.*

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt. Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813. Public Domain.

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

"If Thou But Trust In God to Guide Thee"

J.S. Bach

## **NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:**

During these weeks of Lent, you are invited to focus your gaze on the clay vessels in front of the chancel. The large fired and unglazed piece was thrown on a wheel by local potter Glenn Murray, using the clay held in the hands of many of us in February when liturgical artist Karla Kincannon was a guest worship leader. The smaller pinch pots in the assemblage are further reminders of the prayerful process that Karla guided us through, and now hold portions of ashes and anointing oil as a symbol of this season of humility and repentance.

Mercy, too, is a focus of this season, and you are encouraged to bring written prayers for mercy forward and place them in the large bowl during each week's prelude or postlude, using the pads of paper in the pew racks. You might also wish to take another's prayer from the bowl, and hold it in your hands and heart during the week ahead as a part of your own reflection on mercy. We will sustain this liturgical practice throughout the weeks before Palm Sunday.

### Music Credits:

Lord, Have Mercy: Text: Trad. Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. Sing! A New Creation, 2001. Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf. Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-719269.

Come, Light of Lights: Text: Translated from a Celtic chant of the Céile Dé order. Music: Ruth Cunningham. Text and music © 2007 Ruth Cunningham, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-719269.

Amen: Text: Trad. Liturgical text. Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1827, adapt. Richard Proulx, 1985. *Music Adapt.* © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-719269.

## **WELCOME VISITORS!**

We're happy and honored that you've joined us online today!

People come from many backgrounds, traditions, and cultures to worship at NDPC. We invite you to use the language, whether for God or persons, that is authentic and inspiring to you.

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**If you would like to** donate flowers, volunteer to serve as an usher or liturgist, or submit comments or suggestions about worship, please email [worship@ndpc.org](mailto:worship@ndpc.org).

**Recent sermons** are available for online listening at <http://ndpc.org/worship/sermon-podcasts>.

## **CONTACT NDPC:**

The NDPC Office is closed at this time.

Office Phone: 404-636-1429; Office Email: [office@ndpc.org](mailto:office@ndpc.org)

### Pastoral Care:

**Revs. David Lewicki and Beth Waltemath** are co-pastors of North Decatur Presbyterian Church. Beth or David are available to meet with any person seeking pastoral care or conversation. To schedule an appointment, contact them directly by email or by phoning the church office. David Lewicki ([david@ndpc.org](mailto:david@ndpc.org)); Beth Waltemath ([beth@ndpc.org](mailto:beth@ndpc.org))

**Rev. Mary Anona Stoops** is available to visit with senior adults at church or at your home. To schedule an appointment, contact her by phone in the church office or by email: [maryanona@ndpc.org](mailto:maryanona@ndpc.org)

For urgent needs, call the co-pastors' emergency cell phone: 404-981-NDPC (6372).