



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

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th, 2021

11AM

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE

What Child Is This

Richard Purvis

*CALL TO WORSHIP

by Bruce D. Prewer

One: At the end of a long journey

All: for a called people seeking a destiny;

One: at the end of an enforced trek

All: to a highland town with no room for the poor,

One: at the end of the hard travail

All: for a teenage woman sheltering in a shed:

One: came the unspeakable Gift;

All: the wondrous self-emptying, the embodied word, the great folly of God;

One: a baby crying in the night

All: who frightened jeweled kings and shook the gates of hell.

WELCOME SONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful (v 1-3)

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Rick Neale & Ellen Herbert, 11AM

As each candle is lit, say these words:

Candle 1: **For everything, there is a time.**

Candle 2: **We will be still, and know that you are God.**

Candle 3: **For you alone our souls wait in silence.**

Candle 4: **Light of the world, you show us your love.**

Christmas Candle: **Long after today, when the candles have been put away and we've moved on from this season, the light of Christ will be burning in our hearts. This year, this season, every year, every season, teach us what is holy.**

*CHRISTMAS RESPONSE

**Walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.**

PROCLAMATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7
Charles Gaputis

Image: Judith Tutin (Irish, 1979–), Breaking, 2011. Diptych, St. Aidan’s Cathedral, Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn, #107 (v 1-3)

SECOND READING

Isaiah 11:1-9
Barbara Gifford

Image: Edward Hicks (American, 1780–1849), Peaceable Kingdom, 1834. Oil on canvas, 29.6 × 35.5 in. National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

Low How a Rose E'er Blooming, #129

THIRD READING

Luke 1:26-38
Ellen Gadberry

Image: Jan van Eyck (Netherlandish, ca. 1390–1441), The Annunciation, 1434/36. Oil on canvas transferred from panel, 35 1/2 × 13 7/16 in. (90.2 × 34.1 cm). National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, #119

FOURTH READING

Luke 2:1-7
Rev. Beth Waltemath

Image: William Kurelek (Canadian, 1927–1977), Stand-In for the Christmas Stable, Alberta, 1975. Mixed media on masonite, 24 × 24 in. Collection of Howard F. Ahmanson Jr. and Roberta Green Ahmanson.

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Miffy Grayson, Thea Mistretta, and Caeli Mistretta, violins

FIFTH READING

Luke 2:8-20
Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

Image: John August Swanson (American, 1938-2021), The Shepherds. May 2018.

Angels We Have Heard on High, #113

SIXTH READING

Matthew 2:1-12
Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

Image: Clementine Hunter (American, 1886/87–1988), Untitled (Magi Bearing Gifts), ca. 1970–80. Paint on an albany slip whiskey jug, approx. 10 in. (25.4 cm) high. Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC.

What Child is This, #145

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Rev. David Lewicki

OUR OFFERING

Tonight, we are inviting you to make gifts to either

- The **PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering**, which provides emergency financial support to clergy and their families and supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color
- To give, text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as they support communities affected by the recent tornadoes in Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, and Illinois.

- To give, go to: pda.pcusa.org/situation/December-tornadoes/

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO SHARE THE LIGHT

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The Word was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

*CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night, #122

BENEDICTION

**On the Eve of Christmas, hatred will vanish
On the Eve of Christmas, the earth will flourish
On the Eve of Christmas, war will be gone
On the Eve of Christmas, Love will be born.**

When we offer a glass of water to a thirsty person

it is Christmas

When we clothe a vulnerable person with a gown of love

it is Christmas

When we wipe the tears from weeping eyes

it is Christmas

When the spirit of revenge dies in each of us

it is Christmas

When, in my heart, I no longer want to stay apart

it is Christmas

When I am joined into the being of God

it is Christmas

Sabeel Liberation Theology Centre (Jerusalem),
Shine On, Star of Bethlehem

CLOSING SONG

Joy to the World, #134 (v 1, 2, & 4)

At the conclusion of the Closing Song, please extinguish your candle and leave your candles in your square to be picked up by volunteers.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Sharon Elery Rogers

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

The painting at the front of the sanctuary was created by volunteer artists at NDPC throughout Advent. Intentional and deliberate brush strokes were added to a canvas during each worship service. The painting is inspired by Yayoi Kusama's "Infinity Nets" paintings.

Our musician today is Michael Morgan.

Livestream and video are produced by Jason Schoenberg, Rick Meinersmann, & Tim Merritt.

WELCOME VISITORS

We're happy that you've joined us! Please introduce yourself to those around you. You may share your email address with us by using the QR code on this bulletin. We all come from different backgrounds, traditions, and cultures to worship at NDPC. Use language and pronouns, both for God and for persons, that is authentic to you. After worship, come to the door near the chancel to say hello to elders and pastors.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Magnifying glasses and large print hymnals are available in the lobby. **Hearing assist devices** are also available. Ask an usher and they will gladly help.

If you would like to donate flowers, volunteer to serve as an usher or liturgist, or share comments about worship, email worship@ndpc.org.

Videos of worship services are available at ndpc.org. Subscribe to our **sermon podcast** through any major podcasting service.

CONTACT NDPC: Office Phone: 404-636-1429; Office Email: office@ndpc.org

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

Revs. Beth Waltemath and David Lewicki are available to meet for pastoral care or spiritual conversation. Beth's office days are M and Tu; David's office days are W and Th. Phone/video appointments are also available. Email beth@ndpc.org or david@ndpc.org.

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops is available to meet by appointment. Email maryanona@ndpc.org.

NDPC STAFF:

Elizabeth Waltemath, *Co-Pastor, Head of Staff*

David Lewicki, *Co-Pastor*

Mary Anona Stoops, *Pastor for Older Adult Formation*

Erin Reed Cooper, *Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries*

Kristen Thomas, *Interim Music Director*

Zeena Regis, *Ministry Fellow*

Erin Tolar, *Ministry Fellow*

Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*

Javier Sanchez, *Custodian*



Welcome, Visitors