



*North Decatur Presbyterian Church is called by God
to be a community of faith and worship.
We are 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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 2, 2022

Epiphany

11:00AM

PRELUDE		David Leonard, guitar
WELCOME		Rev. Beth Waltemath
WELCOME SONG	<i>What Star is This, With Beams So Bright</i> Erin Tolar, piano	Glory to God #152, v. 1-3

DARKNESS

READING	Genesis 1:1-2	Astrid Eckert, reader
READING	"Du Dunkelheit, Aus Der Ich Stamme," by Ranier Maria Rilke	

Du Dunkelheit, aus der ich stamme,
ich liebe dich mehr als die Flamme,
welche die Welt begrenzt,

indem sie glänzt
für irgend einen Kreis,
aus dem heraus kein Wesen von ihr weiß.

Aber die Dunkelheit hält alles an sich:
Gestalten und Flammen, Tiere und mich,
wie sie's errafft,
Menschen und Mächte -

Und es kann sein: eine große Kraft
rührt sich in meiner Nachbarschaft.

Ich glaube an Nächte

"The Night"

You, darkness, of whom I am born –
I love you more than the flame
that limits the world
to the circle it illuminates
and excludes all the rest.

But the dark embraces everything:
shapes and shadows, creatures and me,
people, nations - just as they are.
It lets me imagine
a great presence stirring beside me.

I believe in the night.

VISIO DIVINA	Image: "Dark Sky," by Woody Hickcox
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Design Principle: Color (Saturation)

Consider the essential gift of your life this year. Where are the darkest spots where the pain is saturated or the brightest where the joy is undiluted? Where do your experiences blend

together in nuance, ambivalence, and complexity? Remember the gift you are carrying with you. What colors are in it? Where is the color densest and where is it faded?

SONG *Born in the Night, Mary's Child* Glory to God #158

SILENCE

READING 1 Kings 19:9b-13 Jan Cribbs, reader

READING "Sounds of Silence," by Barbara Jung

Have you listened lately to the sounds of silence?

- silence
- quiet
- silence

What sounds do you hear in silence?

- do you hear the sound of the earth being created
- or the dreams of creativity taking shape
- or prayers yearning to be answered

How will you hear the sounds?

- not with cell phones or computers
- but only in the silence will you hear the sounds
- you may hear the voice of the spirit of God calling to you,

But you will hear it only in the

- silence
- quiet
- silence
- silence

VISIO DIVINA Image: "Owl in Flight," by Woody Hickcox

Look at the occupied and unoccupied space in the image of the owl. Now consider the gift of your life this year. How has your life been full? What is missing from it? What search do you commit to continue?

SONG *My Soul in Stillness Waits* David Leonard, guitar & vocals

STILLNESS

READING Matthew 2: 7-12 Kent Leslie

READING "Be Still and Let God Love You," by Kent Leslie Kent Leslie

In these troubled times being still may seem like a luxury.

Try this: see how it feels to sit quietly for ten minutes.

Find a comfortable chair.

Plant your feet on the good earth.

Place your hands in a comfortable position – over your heart, in your lap, or by your side.

Shut your eyes and relax and breathe deeply in and out for ten minutes.

Try to let your mind rest and if it wanders, just invite it to come back to resting.

Be kind to yourself.

Open your eyes and sit for a minute and feel how you are feeling.

In this Holy season, give yourself the gift of being still and letting God love you.

VISIO DIVINA Image: "Be Still," by Kent Leslie

Remember the gift that you are carrying which holds the essence of your life this year. What shape is your gift? How will it feel in God's hands when you present it to Christ?

SONG: *Still, Still, Still* Glory to God #124

SLOWNESS

READING Revelation 21: 1-5a Rick Neale, reader

READING "Today," by Hafiz
I
Do not
Want to step so quickly
Over a beautiful line on God's palm
As I move through the earth's
Marketplace
Today.

I do not want to touch any object in this world
Without my eyes testifying to the truth
That everything is
My Beloved.

Something has happened
To my understanding of existence
That now makes my heart always full of wonder
And kindness.

I do not
Want to step so quickly
Over this sacred place of God's body
That is right beneath your
Own foot

As I
Dance with
Precious life
Today.

VISIO DIVINA Image: "Ripples," by Woody Hickcox

Remember the gift you have with you. Are you ready to hand it over to God? Open your hands and let it drop like a stone into the ocean of Divine Love. Watch the ripples of your offering slowly welcome it.

SONG "Wait for the Lord" Taizé

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING Beth Waltemath

Our **Change 4 Change** offering during goes to Presbyterians for a Better Georgia. Please make a generous gift to the fund today. Text '**NDPC C4C \$20 (or any amount)**' to **73256** to give to give to Change for Change. Members who've made a 2021 pledge are encouraged to give through automatic payment arranged through their bank or to send a check by mail.

To make a **pledge for 2021**, go to the [giving page](#) on ndpc.org.

STAR WORDS

The Wise Ones found their way by following a bright heavenly sign usually represented by a star. For several years at NDPC, we have offered words of wisdom in star-shapes to guide you this year as you ponder its meaning and return to it again and again. You may come by the office between 10am-2pm to pick up a star word this week. Or you may join others on Thursday night, January 6th at 6:30pm via Zoom for an Epiphany celebration with our Community Fellowship and Parishes chairs, Claudia Brogan and Lin Wormley for a guided discernment and discussion of your "Starwards Star Word" for the year. Look for a Zoom link in our email newsletters this week or reach out to office@ndpc.org to join our mailing list.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Beth Waltemath

POSTLUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are
Erin Tolar, piano

Glory to God #151

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Music Credits:

What Star is This, With Beams So Bright. Text: Charles Coffin, 1736. Trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt. Music: Trier ms, 15th century; adapt Michael Praetorius, 1609, harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910.

Born in the Night, Mary's Child. Text: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964, alt. Music: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964, harm. Richard D Wetzell, 1972.

My Soul in Stillness Waits: Text and Music. Marty Haugen, 1982. GIA Productions, Inc. Arranged by David Leonard

Still, Still, Still. Text: Austrian carol; trans. George K. Evans, 1963. Music: Austrian carol; arr. Walter Ehret, 1963.

Wait for the Lord. Text: Taizé Community, 1984. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984. Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé

We Three Kings of Orient Are. Text and Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857, alt.

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Our musicians today are Erin Tolar and David Leonard.

Flowers are provided by the Worship Committee.

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*

Huu Mai, *Interim Music Director*

Zeena Regis, *Ministry Fellow*

Erin Tolar, *Ministry Fellow*

Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*

Javier Sanchez, *Custodian*



Welcome, Visitors