



*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

March 20th, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

11:00AM

** stand in body or spirit*

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE *Prelude in C Major, BWV 870* by Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you are worshiping online, use the comment/chat section to introduce yourself.
Visitors are invited to sign in using the QR code on back of the bulletin.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Anna Cook, liturgist

Only the hungry search for bread.

Only the thirsty look for water.

This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in body or spirit.

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

This is a place for those who ache and yearn for a taste of the divine.

**So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,**

and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

-by Ann Siddall

GATHERING SONG *O Blest Are They Who in Their Love (Verses 1, 2, 4)* Glory to God #208

MEDITATIVE PRAYER

“And in this he showed me a little thing, the size of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, ‘What may this be?’ And it was answered generally thus, ‘It is all that is made.’ I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it.”

-Julian of Norwich

SILENCE

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear the good news!
Christ lived for us.
Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, loved, and free!

* RESPONSE

O Sing to the Lord

Glory to God #637

* PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace by learning "Peace be with you" in American Sign Language.
If you are worshipping online, write greetings in the comment/chat section.*

PROCLAMATION

WORD IN WORSHIP

*Children up to 3rd grade are invited to come forward for the Word in Worship.
Afterward, children may go to Extended Session or return to sit with their family.*

RECOGNITION OF CONFIRMANDS

Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

PRAYER FOR CONFIRMANDS

**Into your hands, Loving God, we have dedicated these children.
In their baptism and in ours, you claim us as your own children.
Today, we stop and see the work that you have been doing in them all along.
We see that you are a part of their expanding minds, their deepening spirits, and
their growing bodies.
We notice you have given them the gift of courage, that they are bravely claiming
their faith as their own.
We notice you have given them compassion, that they look for places in your world
that hurt and discover how they can offer your grace.
We notice you have given them wonder and curiosity, that they will continue to ask
big questions and discover your Spirit alive in the world.
Today, Loving God, we notice that we are bound to them through you and in the
courageous, compassionate, and mysterious love of Christ. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMANDS

*Grainger Ball, Ruth Bonner, Martin Cochran, Pete Dishman, Elliette Fletcher, Kieva Morrison,
Janie Kate Mosley, Lucy Scalese, & Tucker Schoeneberg*

CONFIRMANDS' VOWS & CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**We confirm that you are held by Christ and by us in love and grace.
We affirm that your presence builds up the body of Christ.
We welcome your insights and discoveries, and eagerly anticipate your contributions
to our understanding.
We recognize you as a beloved child of God and encourage you to recognize all people
as God's beloveds.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to God, and to Christ, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 2:4-10

SERMON *What is Grace?* Rev. David Lewicki

ANTHEM *"A Lenten Meditation"* by Douglas E. Wagner
Ryan Henry, baritone ©1978 Harold Flammer Music

GUN VIOLENCE PRAYERS Rev. Beth Waltemath

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our [Loving Parent] 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.**

DEDICATION

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*Our Change 4 Change offering in March during goes to **the Winn & Blackmon houses, the two homes that NDPC uses as transitional housing for formerly homeless families in partnership with Decatur Cooperative Ministry (DCM).** Please make a generous gift today. Text **'NDPC C4C \$20 (or any amount)'** to **73256** to give to give to Change for Change. Members who've made a 2022 pledge are encouraged to give through automatic payment arranged through their bank or to send a check by mail.*

To make a **pledge for 2022**, go to the [giving page](#) on ndpc.org.

* CLOSING SONG *God of Grace and God of Glory* Glory to God #307
We will sing an alternate verse 3.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* by William J. Kirkpatrick,
arr. Craig Curry
©2005 Word Music, LLC

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Our parade-style puppets are inspired by the work of Bread & Puppet, a politically-engaged puppet theater in Vermont. Elements of the puppets personifying sin and grace are informed by input from the NDPC congregation. Sin has gotten even uglier this week. There was no joy in creating this image of a larger-than-life handgun, and it was troubling to bring the graphic into the space where we worship the God of love and peace. However, our awareness of the sin of violence has long been acknowledged on the third Sunday of each month, when we pray for Georgians who have lost their lives to a person with a gun. This grim visual representation is fitting this week, even if we'd rather look away. May it jar us today to fervent prayer and faith-filled action.

Music & Lyrics are printed/streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-719269 and CCLI #21115205 & 21115212

Livestream and video are produced by NDPC members Jason Schoenberg, Rick Meinersmann, & Tim Merritt. If you would like to help, come up to the balcony.

WELCOME VISITORS

We're happy that you've joined us! Please introduce yourself to those around you as you are comfortable. You may share your email address with us by using the QR code on this bulletin—we will send you our weekly e-newsletter. You can learn more about NDPC's ministries and social justice work at www.ndpc.org. We come from different backgrounds, traditions, and cultures to worship. Please use language and pronouns for God and for yourself that are authentic to you. After worship, the pastors would love to meet you.



Welcome, Visitors!

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 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*

Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*

Javier Sanchez, *Custodian*

Erin Tolar, *Ministry Fellow*