



*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

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00AM

*\* We stand in body or spirit*

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### PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

by Arthur Messiter  
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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Visitors are invited to leave your name and contact information by signing the Welcome Pad  
or by using the QR code on back of the bulletin.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Virginia Legener, liturgist

The mouth of the Lord has spoken:

**act justly, love mercy, and proceed humbly with your God**

A path has been laid for us in loving god:

**By loving one another, we enable each other to be transformed by God's grace.**

God's glory has been revealed

**in the beautiful tapestry of humankind that makes up the Body of Christ.**

\* GATHERING SONG

*We All Are One in Mission*

Glory to God #733

MEDITATION

I once saw God dressed as a toad under a rock in my parents' backyard.  
On that patch of grass, the world was infinite and so were the stories I told.

I could do magic before it was witchcraft; I was a prince before poverty became the mark of  
a saint.

Five-year-old me wore a cape. And though he couldn't tell you what love was, with his back  
firmly planted in the grass, gaps in his baby-toothed smile aimed at the sky, he felt it.

In these times, before my disinterest in sports was problematic to my dad and before  
Justin's mom decided he didn't need a friend like me,  
we were too young to be religious, too joyous in the kingdom of my brown, wooden fence.

You couldn't convince me that a god who loved to draw planets and stars in the curved  
beauty of a circle only loved his children who were straight.

I couldn't tell you when it happened.

When my biggest concern for the day switched from which game to play at recess to the  
octave of my voice and how often I use my hands to speak.

I confess I lied. To every pastor who asked me what I was praying for: "Good grades," I would say; and, if they were unconvinced, "A girlfriend too."

I wasn't born this way. I have always suspected that hating others is a learned behavior, and I'm beginning to think that hating yourself is too. I drank poison in place of healing one Sunday at a time.

Thus the kingdom of my backyard began to shrink. And as the voice inside me did the same, battle lines were drawn over who had God in their corner.

I still carry the scars. And with every news story; the bruises continue to slip past my ribs. And the world becomes just a bit smaller.

I am still trying to learn the shape and texture of a heart that has finally embraced itself.

But on clear summer days, I close my eyes and think back to that place and have visions of healing redemption of the grandest sort: a revival of all the parts of myself I lost along the way, visions of who I once was... and who I am dying to become.

So, for a poet like me, trying to see God in the chaos, I have to get back to my brown, wooden kingdom.

We must begin  
to tell a bigger story.

Wooden Kingdom, by Dakota Adan

SILENCE

\* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

-2 Cor. 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom.

**And all of us, with unveiled faces,  
seeing the glory of the Lord  
as though reflected in a mirror,  
are being transformed into the same image  
from one degree of glory to another.**

\* RESPONSE

*Glory to God*

Glory to God #582

\* PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace by learning "Peace be with you" in American Sign Language.*

### **PROCLAMATION**

*Children are invited to come to the baptismal font and sit on a rug or pillow.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:29-46

WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

SERMON

*Come on In*

Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

### **DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

*Lean on Me*

by Bill Withers, arr. Roger Emerson

Marielle Mai & Rick Neale, soloists  
David Leonard, drums

©1972 Interior Music Corp.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

?

**Our [Divine Parent] in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**DEDICATION**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*Please make a generous gift today. All gifts made to Change for Change in the month of October will support the Haiti EcoVillage School Partnership. 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 the remainder of 2022**, go to the "Give" page on ndpc.org.

\* CLOSING SONG     *Called as Partners in Christ's Service (verses 1, 2, 4)*     Glory to God #761

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Llanfair*

by Robert Williams

## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Our colorful liturgical calendar art installation in the narthex reminds us that we are still in the church season known as Ordinary Time. The new banner at its center is backgrounded with the many activities that are a part of our ordinary lives - this text was contributed by many of you. The banner's foreground holds our unifying activity as a worshipping community.

**Flowers today** are given by Ellen Herbert.

**Music & Lyrics** are printed/streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-719269 and CCLI #21115205 & 21115212; CCS PERFORMmusic & WORSHIPcast License #14957

**Livestream and video** are produced by NDPC volunteers. If you would like to help with our weekly audio and video production, come up to the balcony and introduce yourself to the team.

## 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](http://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:

**Children are always welcome at NDPC.** We offer a nursery for babies and Extended Session for Preschool - 1st grade during the 11:00 service. For Extended Session, please walk your child down the education hallway before worship, or meet a volunteer in the narthex after the Children's Word in Worship.

**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](mailto:worship@ndpc.org).

**Videos of worship services** are available at [ndpc.org](http://ndpc.org). Subscribe to our **sermon podcast** through any major podcasting service.

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

**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](mailto:beth@ndpc.org) or [david@ndpc.org](mailto:david@ndpc.org).

**Rev. Mary Anona Stoops** is available to meet by appointment. Email [maryanona@ndpc.org](mailto: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, *Music Director*

Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*

Javier Sanchez, *Custodian*

Victoria Robinson, *Ministry Fellow*

Emily Halbert, *Graduate Music Assistant*