



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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## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th, 2022

7:00 PM

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Our banners were made by the NDPC Many Hands liturgical arts team, using a design created by A Sanctified Art artist Hannah Garrity. About this design, Hannah writes:

*"Let there be light." The birth of the cosmos intersects with awaiting Jesus' birth. As a team, we were particularly drawn to the image of light shining in the lectionary texts this season. As with every year, Jesus' impending birth brings the light of hope to humanity. In the book of John, I imagine the poetic blend of the beginning of time and the beginning of Jesus' tenure as a burst of light from the swirl of the cosmos.*

### PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE                      *The Westminster Carol & The First Nowell*                      arr. Douglas E. Wagner  
NDPC Handbell Choir

LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE                      Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

On the first Sunday of Advent, God said to us, "*Child, my child. You are my world. You are my heart, and you are my Church. What you speak of is hope.*" And we said,  
**Let there be hope.**

On the second Sunday of Advent, God said to us, "Remove the stones of anger, hurt, and fear one at a time and peace will surely grow." And we said,  
**Let there be peace.**

On the third Sunday of Advent, God said to us, "*When you stand with family, neighbors, and strangers, and sing or work together, my heart risks overflowing with joy.*" And we said,  
**Let there be joy!**

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, God said to us, "*I am always in the hallways of your heart. That is love. I just can't leave you alone.*" And we said,  
**Let there be love!**

Tonight, listen to this word from God: "*Before I ever said anything, I had you in mind, and I spoke you into life!*" Let us join together to say,  
**Let there be light!**

WELCOME SONG                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, #133 (v 1-3)

WELCOME                      Rev. David Lewicki

### PROCLAMATION

FIRST READING                      Isaiah 9:2-7  
Claudia Brogan

Image: Judith Tutin (Irish, 1979-), *Breaking*, 2011. Diptych.

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
NDPC Community Choir

Gustav Holst, arr. H. Mai

SECOND READING

Isaiah 11:1-9  
Alice Hickcox

Image: Edward Hicks (American, 1780–1849), Peaceable Kingdom, 1834. Oil on canvas.

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, #129

THIRD READING

Luke 1:26-38  
Cyndi Smith

Image: Jan van Eyck (Netherlandish, ca. 1390–1441), The Annunciation, 1434/36. Oil on canvas.

*O Holy Night*  
Marielle Mai, soprano

Adolphe Adam

FOURTH READING

Luke 2:1-7  
Rick Neale

Image: William Kurelek (Canadian, 1927–1977), Stand-In for the Christmas Stable, Alberta, 1975. Mixed media on masonite.

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*, #121 (v 1, 2, 4)

FIFTH READING

Luke 2:8-20  
Barbara Gifford

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

*Angels We Have Heard on High*, #113

SIXTH READING

Matthew 2:1-12  
Victoria Robinson

Image: Clementine Hunter (American, 1886/87–1988), Magi Bearing Gifts, ca. 1970–80. Paint on an albany slip whiskey jug.

*The First Nowell*, #147 (v 1-3)

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Rev. David Lewicki

Image: Christopher Chan, Grotto of the Nativity, Bethlehem, photograph.

OFFERING

*Please make a generous gift today. All gifts made to Change for Change in the month of December will support the Pastors' Discretionary Fund to provide for emergency needs within our congregation and among our neighbors. Text **'NDPC C4C \$20 (or any amount)' to 73256** to give to give to Change for Change. If you have made pledge, you are encouraged to give through automatic payment arranged through your bank or to send a check by mail.*

To make a **pledge for 2023**, go to the "Give" page on ndpc.org.

**COMMUNION**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, Victoria Robinson

The Lord be with You

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING & PRAYERS

*(sung responses)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest (x3).**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest (x3).**

**Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest (x3).**

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.**

*(sung)* **Amen, amen, amen.**

**Hosanna in the highest (x3).**

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*Everyone who seeks to know God is welcome to receive Communion. At the invitation of the ushers, come forward in the center aisle. Take a piece of Bread (gluten-free), dip it into the Cup (grape juice), then eat. Return to your seat via the side aisles. If you cannot come forward for any reason, notify an usher and we will gladly serve you in your seat. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, come forward and place your hands on your heart.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION      *A Stable Lamp is Lighted, #160*

\*SEVENTH READING

John 1:1-5  
Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

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

\*CANDLELIGHT CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night, #122*

BENEDICTION

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

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 I offer my food to a hungry person,

**it is Christmas.**

When I clothe a vulnerable person with a gown of love,

**it is Christmas.**

When I wipe the tears from weeping eyes,

**it is Christmas.**

When the desire to make peace fills my soul,

**it is Christmas.**

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

**it is Christmas.**

When my being is joined into the being of God,

**it is Christmas.**

*At the conclusion of worship, please leave candles in the baskets at the doors.*

POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*

George F. Handel  
arr. Stephen Paulus

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## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Flowers** are given by the Worship Committee.

**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 in worship at NDPC.** There is a Children's Corner in the narthex with activities to keep kids engaged during Christmas Eve 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)

**Rev. David Lewicki** is available to meet for pastoral care or spiritual conversation either in person or by phone/video call. Email [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

David Lewicki, *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*