



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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 18th, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 AM

** We stand in body or spirit*

Our Advent 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 this Advent. 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. In this banner design, the biblical texts for the four Sundays of Advent are represented in four quadrants of the two banners.

Hannah says about this week's focus:

The fourth Sunday of Advent is in the lower right quadrant; it incorporates patterns of angels, hands of God, and exaltation, all weaving among the rays of the light and hope that the newborn Jesus will shine into the hearts of the world.

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE

Joy to the World
NDPC Handbell Choir

by George F. Handel,
arr. David Angerman
©1994 Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

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

after Luke 1:46-55
Linda Curry, liturgist

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

And our spirits rejoice in you.

We will praise you as long as we live.

We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.

We will not trust in the powerful of this world,
But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,
the One who gives food to the hungry,
the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

As we worship you in this place,

* GATHERING SONG *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* Glory to God #98

ADVENT MEDITATION *Conversations with God* by Rev. Sarah Are
Love, Carol Tveit and Katie Condon

Lee Butler designed and made the stoles for our readers in the liturgical colors of Advent season with the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in Ukrainian, Latin, Spanish and Scottish Gaelic.

SILENT PRAYER

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Listen for my lullaby. Look for the wildflowers. I am there.
I am always in the hallways of your heart. That is love. I just can't leave you alone.
Let there be love!

* RESPONSE *While We Are Waiting, Come* Glory to God #92

* PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace by learning "Peace be with you" in American Sign Language.
Children 1st grade and below may leave to go to Extended Session or remain in the pew.*

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38

SERMON Let it Be Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM *What Sweeter Music* words by Robert Herrick
NDPC Community Choir music by John Rutter
Emily Halbert, guest conductor ©1988 Oxford University Press

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May.
Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn,
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
Tis He is born, whose quick'ning birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see Him come, and know Him ours,
Who, with His sunshine, and His showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome Him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give Him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do Him honor; who's our King,
And Lord of all this reveling.
What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
The birth of this our heavenly King?

PRAYERS FOR VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE IN GEORGIA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR 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. 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 2023**, go to the "Give" page on ndpc.org.

* CLOSING SONG

Song of Mary (vs. 1-3, 5)

Glory to God #99

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trepak from "The Nutcracker"
NDPC Handbell Choir

by P. Tchaikovsky
arr. Frances Callahan
©1987 in Clapper Classics 3 by Agape

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Images of the Day: Henry Ossawa Tanner, *The Annunciation*, 1898; Antonello da Messina, *Mary - the Annunciation* (detail), 1475; Mark Dukes, *Our Lady Mother of Ferguson and All Those Killed by Gun Violence*, 2016.

Flowers are given by the Worship Committee.

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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. 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. We also offer a nursery for babies and Extended Session childcare 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.

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

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.

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops is available to meet by appointment. Email 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*