



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 25th, 2022

Christmas Day

11:00 AM

** We stand in body or spirit*

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 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.

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Bob Krogstad
©1996 Word Music, 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

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

**For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;**

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

**God has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;**

For born to you this day in the city of David is a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among all whom God favors!**

* GATHERING SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Glory to God #132

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Madeleine L'Engle

Was there a moment, known only God, when all the stars held their breath, when the galaxies paused in their dance for a fraction of a second, and the Word, who had called it all into being, went with all its love into the womb of a young girl, and the universe started to breathe again, and the ancient harmonies resumed their song, and the angels clapped their hands for joy? Power. Greater power than you can imagine, abandoned, as the Word knew the powerlessness of the unborn child, still unformed, taking up almost no space in the great ocean of amniotic fluid, unseeing, unhearing, unknowing. Slowly growing, as any human embryo grows, arms and legs and a head, eyes, mouth, nose, slowly swimming into life until the ocean in the womb is no longer large enough, and it is time for birth. Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, Christ the Maker of the universe or perhaps many universes, willingly and lovingly leaving all that power and coming to this poor, sin-filled planet to live with us for a few years to show us what we ought to be and could be. Christ came to us as Jesus of Nazareth, wholly human and wholly divine, to show us what it meant to be made in God's image.

SILENT PRAYER

* RESPONSE

Away in a Manger

Glory to God #115

* 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 98:1-4
Luke 2:8-20

ANTHEM

Christmastide
Marielle Mai, soprano

Donald Fraser

*Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide*

*Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and the gently falling snow
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide*

*From a simple ox's stall came the greatest gift of all
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide*

*Children sing of peace and joy at the birth of one small boy
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide*

*Let the bells ring loud and clear, ring out now for all to hear
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide*

*Trumpets sound and voices raises in an endless stream of praise
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide*

*Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old
Peace and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide*

SERMON

Christmas Awakening

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

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. If you have made a pledge, you 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

Joy to the World

Glory to God, #134

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

*-Howard Thurman, from *The Mood of Christmas*, p. 23
Published and copyrighted by Friends United Press, 1985*

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Carol Tornquist
©1997 Word Music, Inc.

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Images of the Day: Scott Erickson (@scottthepainter), 2019.

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. 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*