



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

January 1st, 2022

Epiphany

11:00 AM

** We stand in body or spirit*

PRELUDE

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist
"The Old Year Now Has Passed Away"

BWV 614,
Johann Sebastian Bach

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.

FIRST EPIPHANY

Ellen Gadberry, reader

Suppose there was a book full of only the word,
let – from whose clipped sound all things begin: fir
and firmament, feather, the first whale – and suppose
we could scroll through its pages every day
to find and pronounce a Let meant only for us –
we would stumble through the streets with open books,
eyes crossed from too much reading; we would speak
in auto-rhyme, the world would echo itself – and still
we'd continue in rounds, saying let and let and let
until even silent dreams had been allowed

"Book of Genesis" from *There Is an Anger That Moves* by Kei Miller (Carcanet Press, 2007)
Image: Linda Post, *Solstice*, R. Michelson Galleries, Northampton Mass

* SONG

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Verses 1, 3, 4

Glory to God #347

SECOND EPIPHANY

Cynthia Haley Dunn, reader

A door opens. Maybe I've
been standing here shuffling
my weight from foot to foot
for decades, or maybe I only
knocked once. In truth, it
doesn't matter. A door opens
and I walk through without a
backward glance. This is it,
then, the moment of truth in
a lifetime of truth: a choice
made, a path taken, the
gravitational pull of Spirit

too compelling to ignore any
longer. I am received by
something far too vast to see.
It has roots in antiquity but
speaks clearly in the present
tense. "Be" the vastness says.
"Be without adverbs, descriptors,
or qualities." Be so alive that
awareness bares itself
uncloaked and unadorned.
Then go forth to give what you
alone can give, awake to love

and suffering, unburdened by
the weight of expectations.
go forth to see and be seen,

blossoming, always blossoming
into your magnificence.

"The Open Door" from *From Root to Bloom - Yoga Poems and Other Writings*
by Danna Faulds (Peaceable Kingdom Books, 2007)
Image: Mandie Meyer, *Untitled* (Source: Instagram, used with artist permission)

SILENT REFLECTION

THIRD EPIPHANY

Joe Sandifer, reader

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and God's glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;

your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Image: Aaron Douglas, *Rise, Shine for Thy Light Has Come*, Howard Univ. Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Brillez de l'avant

FOURTH EPIPHANY

Margaret Waltemath Lewicki, reader

Some ask the world
and are diminished
in the receiving
of it. You gave me

only this small pool
that the more I drink
from, the more overflows
me with sourceless light

"Gift" from *Experimenting with an Amen* by R.S. Thomas (Macmillian, 1986)
Image: Iris Hahs-Hoffstetter, *We Saw His Glory*, as reproduced in Hans-Ruedi Weber,
Immanuel: The Coming of Jesus in Art and the Bible (WCC Publications, 1984)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Lumière débordante

FIFTH EPIPHANY

David Root, reader

Mrs. Nelson explained how to stand still and listen
to the wind, how to find meaning in pumping gas,
how peeling potatoes can be a form of prayer. She took
questions on how not to feel lost in the dark
After lunch she distributed worksheets
that covered ways to remember your grandfather's
voice. Then the class discussed falling asleep
without feeling you had forgotten to do something else—
something important—and how to believe
the house you wake in is your home. This prompted
Mrs. Nelson to draw a chalkboard diagram detailing
how to chant the Psalms during cigarette breaks,
and how not to squirm for sound when your own thoughts
are all you hear; also, that you have enough.
The English lesson was that I am

is a complete sentence.

And just before the afternoon bell, she made the math equation
look easy. The one that proves that hundreds of questions,

and feeling cold, and all those nights spent looking
for whatever it was you lost, and one person

add up to something.

"What You Missed That Day You Were Absent from Fourth Grade"
from *Everyone at This Party Has Two Names* by Brad Aaron Modlin (Self-published, 2016)

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

Please make a generous gift today. All gifts made to Change for Change in December will support Presbyterians for a Better Georgia's policy advocacy at the state capitol to end homelessness, increase affordable housing, and expand access to healthcare. Text 'NDPC C4C \$20 (or any amount)' to 73256 to give to give to Change for Change. For 2023 pledges, please give through automatic bank payment or send a check by mail.

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

COMMUNION

As bread that was scattered on the hillside,
was gathered together and made one,
**so too, we, your people,
scattered throughout the world,
are gathered together around your table
and become one.**

As grapes grown in the field
are gathered together and pressed into
wine,
**so too are we drawn together
and pressed by our times to share a
common lot**

**and are transformed into your life-blood
for all.**

So let us prepare to eat and drink
as Jesus taught us:
inviting the stranger to our table
and welcoming those who are poor.

**May we be reminded of the divisions
this Eucharist seeks to heal.
And may it help transform us
into the Body of Christ we share.**

Communion Liturgy from the Didache, written in *Imaging the Word: An Arts and Lectionary Resource* (Pilgrim Press, 1996)

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 AT COMMUNION *Reflection on "I Am the Bread of Life"*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, you enliven word and flesh and resurrect life with love. Let it be with us according to your will. Let us be your body given for the life of the world. Amen.

* CLOSING SONG

Seek Ye First

Glory to God #175

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Allison Arsenault, reader

Gather up whatever is
glittering in the gutter,
whatever has tumbled
in the waves or fallen
in flames out of the sky,

for it's not only our
hearts that are broken,
but the heart
of the world as well.

Stitch it back together.
Make a palace where
the day speaks to the night
and the earth speaks to the sky.
Whether we created God
or God created us
it all comes down to this:
in our imperfect world

we are meant to repair
and stitch together
what beauty there is, stitch it
with compassion and wire.
See how everything
we have made gathers
the light inside itself
and overflows? A blessing.

"Holding the Light" from *Only Now* by Stuart Kestenbaum (Deerbrook Editions, 2013)
Image: Audrey Stommess, *People Helping People*, "Continuum: Drawing, Painting, Sculpture Alumni
Invitational." Eisentrager-Howard Gallery

POSTLUDE

Jubilate Deo

Dom Paul Benoit

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Flowers today 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 or write it in the Welcome Pad—we will send you NDPC's 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 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 to meet our childcare volunteers.

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.

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

NDPC STAFF

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