



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

March 5th, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

11:00 AM

** We rise in body or spirit*

About the Art: Salt of the earth, light of the world. The table construction at the front of the sanctuary provides a direct visual of these two important metaphors in Jesus' teachings. A subtler reference to the theme is displayed in the narthex on the central pillar of the liturgical calendar. This dimensional collage includes paper stained with a technique that involves sprinkling wet watercolor with coarse salt and brushing the salt away when it's dried. Other paper tiles evoke golden light, some with literal gold leaf reflecting ambient illumination.

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE

Prelude in D Major, BWV 850

J. S. 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

-Wild Goose Publishing
Susan Castle, Liturgist

I
I am
I am giving
I am giving you
I am giving you me
I am giving you me, Lord

I am giving you me
In the promises I keep
And the insults that I pardon
In the good news that I share
And the confidences I protect
In the remembering of gracious things
And the forgetting of forgiven sins
I am giving you me, Lord

I
I am
I am giving
I am giving you
I am giving you me
I am giving you me, my Beloveds
I am giving you me
In the beauty of the earth
And the ugliness of a wooden cross
In the fullness of the four seasons
And the emptiness of a tomb
In warmth for those who are weak
And the rejection of the mighty
In the companionship of one another
And the solitude of a place apart
God, may the love you have for me
Be in them
So that I may also
Be in them
And they in us.

* GATHERING SONG

God, How Can We Forgive (v. 1, 2, 3)

Glory to God #445

MEDITATION

If you are not to become a monster,
you must care what they think.
If you care what they think,
how will you not hate them,
and so become a monster
of the opposite kind? From where then
is love to come—love for your enemy
that is the way of liberty?
From forgiveness. Forgiven, they go
free of you, and you of them;
they are to you as sunlight
on a green branch. You must not
think of them again, except
as monsters like yourself,
pitiable because unforgiving.

- Wendell Berry, "Enemies" from *Entries: Poems*.
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SILENT PRAYERS

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

-Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy,
and my burden is light.”
**When our lives are joined with yours, Christ,
we are forgiven, loved, and free.**

* RESPONSE

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler (v. 1, 2, 3)

Glory to God #183

* PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace by learning “Peace be with you” in American Sign Language.
Children may come to the baptismal font for the children’s message, with or without a parent.*

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:17-48 (edited)

WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Children may return to their seats or go to Extended Session care with adult volunteers.

SERMON

The Law is a Grace

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

All non-pledge gifts made in March will support the One Great Hour of Sharing. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Text **'NDPC C4C \$20 (or any amount)' to 73256** to give to our Change for Change offering. Gifts may also be put in the offering plate with an usher after worship.

To make a pledge payment to NDPC, please give through automatic bank payment or send a check by mail. **To make a new pledge for 2023**, go to the "Give" page on ndpc.org.

ANTHEM

Hear My Prayer
NDPC Community Choir

by Moses Hogan
©2001 Hal Leonard Corporation

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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, dip it into the Cup, then eat. Return to your seat via the side aisles. The bread is gluten-free and cup contains grape juice. 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 *Come to the Table of Grace*

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 *Spirit, Open My Heart* (v. 1, 2, 3) Glory to God #692

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D Major, BWV 850

J. S. Bach

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

More on this season's art: the Many Hands group crafts collaborative liturgical artwork with intention and care. The construction process was sticky because of the glue we used, prompting us to muse about the "stickiness" of Lent; the thoughts, habits and mindsets that stick with us even as we yearn to fast from them to make more space for God. We agreed that the variety and uniqueness of each tile evoked our own uniqueness as Lenten seekers, and when we noticed that the tiles suggested fish scales, our imaginations turned quickly to the disciples called by Jesus to leave their catching of fish – and their roles in producing fish paste! – to live fully into God's way.

Image of the Day: Wee Muckers – Youth of Belfast. Belfast, Carrick Hill. Teenagers facing policemen on Trinity Street. © Toby Binder

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*

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*