



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

May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter

11:00 AM

** We rise in body or spirit*

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE *When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder* James M. Black

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP -adapted from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community (Daytona Beach, FL)
Charlotte Stone, liturgist

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no habla Ingles.

We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're in church every Sunday, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.

We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money gambling, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts.

We welcome everyone. Even... no, *especially* you!

*OPENING SONG *Woke Up This Morning* Traditional Spiritual/Freedom Song
Atlanta Resistance Revival Chorus

RECONCILIATION

MEDITATION

God answers sharp and sudden on some prayers,
And thrusts the thing we have prayed for in our face,
A gauntlet with a gift in't. Every wish
Is like a prayer, with God.

-from Aurora Leigh, Book 2, by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

In your time of quiet prayer today, think about how the poet says that God answers some of our prayers: the answer can be “sharp,” thrown back at us, a challenge (“gauntlet”) for our being, even as our prayer is answered. Has this ever been true for you?

SILENT PRAYERS

In the quiet, speak to God. Listen for God’s response to you.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

How great is your love, O God,
how wide is your mercy!
Never let us board up the narrow gate that leads to life
with rules or doctrines that you dismiss;
but give us a Spirit to welcome all people with affection,
so that your church may never exclude secret friends of yours:
all those who are included in the love of Jesus Christ,
who came to save us all. **Amen.**

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Come! Live in the Light

Glory to God #749

*PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace by learning “Peace be with you” in American Sign Language.
Children may come forward to the baptismal font and find a pillow or rug to sit on.*

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 15:21-28

WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Children may return to their seats or go to extended session childcare.

SERMON

Dogs

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

We Walk in Love
Atlanta Resistance Revival Chorus

by Deanna Witkowski

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF GUN VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN GEORGIA

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

*May's Change-for-Change contributions support ATL Free Fridge. The refrigerator on NDPC's campus is sustained by an all-volunteer team that cleans, stocks, and maintains the fridge with free, healthy, nutritious food for our neighbors. **Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73526** to give to ATL Free Fridge, the May Change-for-Change recipient.*

To make a **financial pledge to NDPC for 2023**, go to the giving page on ndpc.org.

* CLOSING SONG

Draw the Circle Wide

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

John Warrington Hatton

TODAY'S GUEST MUSICIANS:

The Atlanta Resistance Revival Chorus is a member of the national network of Resistance Revival Choruses made up of women, femmes, and non-binary people. Founded in 2017, Resistance Revival Choruses are on a mission to use joy as an act of resistance and to revive the unbreakable bond between music and protest as we raise our voices in the name of equity and civic engagement. The Atlanta Resistance Revival Chorus rehearses every week and performs several times a year at North Decatur Presbyterian Church.

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Image of the Day: ACT UP demonstration, NYC, 6/30/87; Sara Krulwich/The New York Times
Flowers are given to honor those who gave of their time and love to share the faith with the children and youth during this past school year.

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

Revs. David Lewicki, Mary Anona Stoops, and Erin Reed Cooper are available to meet to support your spiritual, mental, and physical health. Pastoral care is confidential and can be held in-person or virtually. Email david@ndpc.org, maryanona@ndpc.org, and erin@ndpc.org.

NDPC STAFF

Rev. David Lewicki, *Pastor*

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, *Pastor*

Rev. Dr. 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*