



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

September 10, 2023

11:00 AM

* *We rise in body or spirit*

PREPARATION & ADORATION

As we gather for worship, we do so as a whole community in song. Singing brings us together—makes us “one body”—breathing and moving and vibrating together. Feel free to stand up or sit down, listen with your eyes closed or sing at the top of your lungs.

GATHERING MUSIC

*This Little Light of Mine
Thy Word*

Michael Smith & Amy Grant

RECEIVING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

-adapted from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community
(Daytona Beach, FL)
Barbara Gifford, liturgist

Welcome, all of you. 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 crying newborns, their crying-on-the-inside parents, to those who are skinny as a rail, and those who 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 you teenagers who are growing up too fast.

We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and 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 work too hard, don't work, or are only here because grandma is in town and she wanted to come to church.

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

We welcome everyone. Everyone. Every one. Especially you.

GATHERING MUSIC *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 1-3)*

Glory to God #475

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECONCILIATION

MEDITATION

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
 If I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
 Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
 I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
 Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
 My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
 So I did sit and eat.

Love (III), by George Herbert
George Herbert and the Seventeenth-Century Religious Poets
(W. W. Norton and Company, Inc. 1978)

SILENT PRAYERS

*In these 60 seconds of quiet prayer, we invite you to still your mind and open your spirit.
Listen and see if you can hear the voice of Love bid you "welcome."*

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Love bade me welcome...
...And I did sit at Love's Table and eat!
In Christ, we are welcomed, forgiven, loved, and free!

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God #582

*PASSING THE PEACE

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

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Children (Pre-K – 3rd grade) are invited to go to Worship & Wonder in the 2nd floor Education Hall. Parents/guardians can meet kids there right after worship.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:12-14

SERMON

Making Room

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

O Love
NDPC Community Choir
Emily Halbert, guest conductor

Elaine Hagenberg

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. Amen.**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*September's Change-for-Change contributions supports the Thank Offering, collected every year by Presbyterian Women's groups across the country. From your offering, grants are made to faith-inspired grassroots community groups in the range of \$5000-50,000. At least 40% of the grants directly support the health of women in low-income communities in the US and around the world. More information can be found at presbyterianwomen.org. **Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73526 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today)** and 100% of your gift will support the 2023 Thank Offering, the September Change-for-Change recipient.*

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

* CLOSING SONG

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Glory to God #839

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Duke Street

John Warrington Hatton

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Image of the Day: from flickr.com (Creative Commons)

Flowers are given by Barbara Gifford in memory of Ruth Schmidt.

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. There are a variety of quiet activities for children in the Children's Corner in the narthex that kids can take to their seats during worship. We offer nursery care for babies on Sundays from 9:45 – 11:15AM.

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*