



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

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## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th, 2023

11:00 AM

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

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### PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Martha Lynn Thompson  
*What Child Is This?*  
*Noel Nouvelet*  
NDPC Handbell Choir

WELCOME

\*LIGHTING THE CANDLE Mary Alice Kemp, Nancy Jones, Rachel Henning, & Gerry Cook  
Knock, knock!

#### **Who's there?**

John!

#### **John who?**

I'm John, the gospel writer. But never mind the who. Start with *when*. My *when* is "in the beginning," the *very* beginning. In the beginning was God. All of this that we speak of today has been emerging since the very beginning of the world.

#### **We remember: in the beginning God created everything by speaking words.**

Yes! You're getting it! All things are made by the Word. Even if it looks like nothing is there. Even if everything appears to be chaos or hopelessness—that's where you'll find the Word.

#### **How will we recognize this Word?**

It looks like a candle in the darkness. It tastes like a cup of water in a thirsty land. It is the feeling of peace within when we've been hiding in fear.

The Word is not an idea. It is a human being. The Word is here, with us.

\*RESPONSIVE CHANT *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, #88*

*O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti, attingens a fine esque ad finem forti ter, suaviter disponensque omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.*

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol justitiae:  
veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.*

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio gentium, et Salvator eorum:  
Veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

### PROCLAMATION

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Carter Broome, liturgist

Image: Judith Tutin (Irish, 1979–), *Breaking*, 2011. Diptych.

*Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*  
NDPC Community Choir

arr. Gustav Holst

#### SECOND READING

Isaiah 11:1-9  
Charlotte Stone, liturgist

Image: Edward Hicks (American, 1780–1849), *Peaceable Kingdom*, 1846–48. Oil on canvas,  
26.4 × 30 in.

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, #129

#### THIRD READING

Luke 1:26-38  
Barbara Gifford, liturgist

Image: George Bandele (Nigerian, 1910–1995), *Virgin Mary*, 1960s, wood and pigment.

*Gabriel's Message*  
NDPC Community Choir

arr. Stephen Paulus

#### FOURTH READING

Luke 2:1-7  
Lee Nichols, liturgist

Image: William Kurelek (Canadian, 1927–1977), *Stand-In for the Christmas Stable, Alberta*,  
1975. Mixed media on masonite.

*Away in a Manger*, #115 (v 1, 2)  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*, #121 (v 1, 2)

#### FIFTH READING

Luke 2:8-20  
Jan Cribbs, liturgist

Image: John August Swanson (American, 1938-2021), *The Shepherds*. May 2018.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*, #133 (v 1, 3)  
*Angels We Have Heard on High*, #113 (v 1, 3)

#### SIXTH READING

Matthew 2:1-12  
Scott Pieper, liturgist

Image: *Crèche, December 2023, Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Bethlehem*. Photo:  
Munther Isaac.

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*, #151 (v 1, 5)  
*The First Nowell*, #147 (v 1, 3)

#### CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Rev. David Lewicki

## 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. You may also leave a cash offering in the plates held by ushers as you leave tonight.*

*To make a **pledge or gift to NDPC for 2024**, go to the "Give" page on [ndpc.org](http://ndpc.org).*

## COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, Victoria Robinson

Christ be with You

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Holy One.**

Let us give thanks to the Love made flesh.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING & PRAYERS

#### 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. Amen.**

### 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 by 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 DURING COMMUNION

*A Stable Lamp is Lighted, #160*

### \*SEVENTH READING

John 1:1-5

Image: Borys Fiodorowicz (Polish), 3,1415926535879323846264338327, 2020. God has fingerprints! [IG: @borysfiodorowicz]

*As the light is passed, hold the lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle into the flame.*

### \*CANDLELIGHT CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night, #122*

### \*BENEDICTION

Sabeel Liberation Theology Centre (Jerusalem)  
*Shine On, Star of Bethlehem*

On the Eve of Christmas, hatred vanishes;

**On the Eve of Christmas, the earth flourishes;**

On the Eve of Christmas, war is gone;

**On the Eve of Christmas, Love is born.**

When I offer my food to another who is hungry,

**it is Christmas.**

When I clothe someone who is vulnerable with a gown of love,

**it is Christmas.**

When I wipe the tears from weeping eyes,

**it is Christmas.**

When the desire to make peace fills my soul,  
**it is Christmas.**  
When, in my heart, I no longer want to stay apart,  
**it is Christmas.**  
When I know my being is joined into the being of God,  
**it is Christmas.**

POSTLUDE

*Candlelight Carol*  
NDPC Community Choir

John Rutter

*At the conclusion of worship, please leave candles in the baskets at the doors.*

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## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**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.** The nursery, located off the hallway just outside the sanctuary door, is open this morning during worship for kids 0-3. Kids can move around a bit in the narthex, where you can still listen to worship with your child.

**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](mailto:worship@ndpc.org).

**Videos of worship services** are available at [ndpc.org](http://ndpc.org). Subscribe to our **sermon podcast** through any major podcasting service.

**CONTACT NDPC:** Office Phone: 404-636-1429; Office Email: [office@ndpc.org](mailto: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](mailto:david@ndpc.org), [maryanona@ndpc.org](mailto:maryanona@ndpc.org), and [erin@ndpc.org](mailto: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*  
Didier Monga, *Ministry Fellow*