

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 14th, 2024

11:00 AM

** We stand 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 SONGS

*This Little Light of Mine
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

by Eric Thomas
Tim Merritt, liturgist

The Prophet Micah told us that the LORD requires us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. As we celebrate Martin Luther King's witness, let us be called to worship by some of the prophets of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1963, in his letter to complacent white clergy in the South, Dr. King wrote, “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

O God, transform our silence into action, our fear into courage.

President John F. Kennedy, in an address that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, said, “The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities; whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated.”

O God, help us to love you and to love others as ourselves.

Rosa Parks said, “You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.”

O God, remind us that you did not give us a spirit of fear.

Ann Braden, a white Southern activist and ally of the Civil Rights movement wrote, “In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed.”

O God, help us to envision and struggle for a world where justice will roll down like water, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

* OPENING SONG

We Shall Overcome

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.

MEDITATION

Each day we go about our business,
walking past each other, catching each other's
eyes or not, about to speak or speaking.

All about us is noise. All about us is
noise and bramble, thorn and din, each
one of our ancestors on our tongues.

Someone is stitching up a hem, darning
a hole in a uniform, patching a tire,
repairing the things in need of repair.

Someone is trying to make music somewhere,
with a pair of wooden spoons on an oil drum,
with cello, boom box, harmonica, voice.

A woman and her son wait for the bus.
A farmer considers the changing sky.
A teacher says, *Take out your pencils. Begin.*

We encounter each other in words, words
spiny or smooth, whispered or declaimed,
words to consider, reconsider.

We cross dirt roads and highways that mark
the will of some one and then others, who said
I need to see what's on the other side.

I know there's something better down the road.
We need to find a place where we are safe.
We walk into that which we cannot yet see.

Say it plain: that many have died for this day.
Sing the names of the dead who brought us here,
who laid the train tracks, raised the bridges,

picked the cotton and the lettuce, built
brick by brick the glittering edifices
they would then keep clean and work inside of.

Praise song for struggle, praise song for the day.
Praise song for every hand-lettered sign,
the figuring-it-out at kitchen tables.

Some live by *love thy neighbor as thyself*,
others by *first do no harm* or *take no more
than you need*. What if the mightiest word is love?

Love beyond marital, filial, national,
love that casts a widening pool of light,
love with no need to pre-empt grievance.

In today's sharp sparkle, this winter air,
any thing can be made, any sentence begun.
On the brink, on the brim, on the cusp,
praise song for walking forward in that light.

-“Praise Song for the Day,” by Elizabeth Alexander,
Graywolf Press, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 2009

SILENCE

How might God's Spirit be stirring within, leading you to offer your life as an act of praise?

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

2 Timothy 1:6-7

I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands,
**for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice
but rather a spirit of power
and love
and self-discipline. Amen!**

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Freedom is Coming

Glory to God #359

* 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

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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 8; Genesis 1; Matthew 5:43-45

SERMON

Theology for a Democracy

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place
NDPC Community Choir

Mark A. Miller

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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

*All gifts made to Change for Change in the month of January will support Presbyterians for a Better Georgia, a public policy advocacy partnership working on legislation at the Georgia state capital that will help end homelessness, increase affordable housing, and expand access to healthcare.. **Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73526 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).***

* CLOSING SONG

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamond Johnson

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

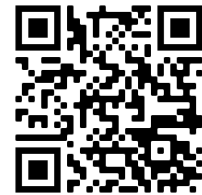
Image of the Day: Leroy Almon (American, 1938–1997), *The New Heaven*, 1984. Carved wood, light bulbs, artificial pearls, glue, glitter, plastic letters, paint, 36 × 28 in. (91.4 × 71.1 cm). Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio.

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, or there are child-friendly quiet activities that can be taken to your seat.

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*

Didier Monga, *Ministry Fellow*