



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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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

*Nothing More*  
*God the Sculptor of the Mountains (v. 1-4)*

The Alternate Routes  
Glory to God #5

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Cribbs, liturgist

O God of all

**Of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael:**

Our hearts are broken in pieces at the suffering and deaths of your people.

**Our voices cry for peace and for justice.**

God, be God this day:

Comfort those who grieve,

**Console and heal the injured,**

Be close to those in fear,

**Restrain with your mighty hand those who perpetrate violence.**

Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do,

**That, as we worship, you will shape us to be your people,**

**To always seek justice, peace, and security for all.**

\* OPENING SONG

*O God Show Mercy to Us (v.1-2)*

Glory to God #341

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

The diameter of the bomb was thirty centimeters  
and the diameter of its effective range about seven meters,  
with four dead and eleven wounded.  
And around these, in a larger circle  
of pain and time, two hospitals are scattered  
and one graveyard. But the young woman

who was buried in the city she came from,  
at a distance of more than a hundred kilometers,  
enlarges the circle considerably,  
and the solitary man mourning her death  
at the distant shores of a country far across the sea  
includes the entire world in the circle.  
And I won't even mention the crying of orphans  
that reaches up to the throne of God and  
beyond, making a circle with no end and no God.

“The Diameter of the Bomb,” by Yehuda Amichai

There will be peace, because there has always been peace. In people's pillows, at tables, in children's eyes, in stones, in dry earth around poppies. In pumpkin seeds. In teachers. At gravesites. The grave of my grandmother noted by an unmarked white stone. In the places where people kneel, crouch, press up against a wall, tuck a note into a crack, light a thin taper. In school desks and blank notebooks and blackened falafel skillet. The scent of dampness held in a windowsill. The small pouches hand-stitched with yellow petals. The mess. You can make all the chaos you want, and pretend the wall is keeping you safe, you may be cruel or pious, you may not carry a weapon into any heaven ever described by any religion, but know that peace is patiently hovering inside of everything and will not belong to anyone and never has, and someday someone wiser will welcome it again. And what a day that will be.

-from “There Will Be Peace in the Holy Land,” by Naomi Shihab Nye

SILENCE

\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Matthew 5:3-10

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

\*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Rain Down*

Glory to God 48?

\* PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace by learning “Peace be with you” in American Sign Language.  
Children (Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) are invited to go to Worship & Wonder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Education Hall.  
Parents/guardians can meet kids there right after worship.*

## PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 1:43-51  
*In English & Arabic*

INTRODUCTIONS & VIDEO

-from *Salt of the Earth:*  
*Palestinian Christians in the Northern West Bank*

SERMON

Revs. Fahed Abu-Akel and Marthame Sanders

**Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel** was the Founder and Executive Director of the Atlanta Ministry with International Students, a ministry of hospitality for young people who have come to Atlanta to study. He was born in Kafr Yasif, in the Galilee, of Christian Palestinian parents. A graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, Fahed was ordained in 1978 and has served the Presbyterian Church in numerous capacities including being elected as the Moderator of its 214<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the first Arab-American to lead a major U.S. denomination.

**Rev. Marthame Sanders** is a podcaster, producer, musician, improviser, and consultant. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Chicago, Marthame has served in ministry as international mission staff, youth director, and solo pastor. He and his wife served as PC(USA) mission volunteers in the Palestinian Christian village of Zababdeh.

QUESTIONS & RESPONSE

*(questions can be written on index cards)*

### DEDICATION

ANTHEM

*Prayer of the Children*  
NDPC Community Choir

Kurt Bestor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (chanted in Arabic)

Revs. Lewicki & Sanders

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 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).***

\* CLOSING SONG

*Dona Nobis Pacem*

Glory to God #752

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Abu-Akel & Sanders

POSTLUDE

*O Day of Peace*

C. Hubert H. Parry

## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Image of the Day:** Banksy, *Rage, Flower Thrower*, 2005. Mural, Beit Sahour, Palestinian Territories. Photo: Eddie Gerald / Alamy Stock Photo.

**Today's flowers** are provided by Jon Colgrove.

**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](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*