



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 7th, 2024

Baptism of the Lord

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

Come! Live in the Light! (v. 1-3)
Come to the Table of Grace (v. 1-5)

Glory to God #749
Glory to God #507

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.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Glenda Clay, liturgist

In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep,
and God said: *Let there be light,*

And the Spirit moved over the water!

Through the prophet Isaiah, God said:

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
Do not fear, I have called you by name; you are mine.*

And the Spirit moved over the water!

When Jesus was baptized by John,
suddenly the heavens were opened.

And a dove rested on Jesus, the Beloved,

And the Spirit moved over the water!

O Spirit, move over the water in this font today! Join our life in yours!

* OPENING SONG

Down in the River to Pray

Children are invited to come forward and sit in front of the baptismal font, alone or with a parent.

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

In baptism, God's Spirit moves over the water,

water that flows freely to nourish the earth,

water that rolls down in streams of divine justice,

water that satisfies those who thirst for righteousness,

water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and brings new birth.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you renounce evil and turn from the power of sin?

I do.

Do you trust in Jesus Christ, and will you let your life be conformed to the life of Christ?

I do and I will.

Will you pour out your own life to nourish the lives of others, both in this church and for the whole household of God?

I will.

QUIET REFLECTION

Thanksgiving Over the Water

We give thanks to you, God, for life-giving water.

At the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery deep, calling forth life.

In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood.

You parted the waters of the sea and led your people to the freedom of the promised land.

In the waters of Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed by the Spirit.

In the water of our baptism, you give us life that never ends.

Your Mercy is everlasting.

Your justice never fails.

Your healing river always flows.

No matter how we may try to block the Spirit's path,
or redirect the Spirit's winds,

No matter how far away we wander from the life-giving Stream—

So far that we do not hear its sound,

and we forget its power...

God, you

Find us and draw us back to the water's edge

To restore us and refresh us!

May this water be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth, for all of us, today!

Come, Holy Spirit!

Move over these waters.

Let them be dewdrops of mercy.

Let them carry us toward justice.

Let them heal us with the power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us thirst for the age to come.

Most Holy God, Divine Parent of us all! **Glory to you!**

Jesus Christ, Savior! **Glory to you!**

Spirit of holiness, Spirit over the water, **Glory to you!**

Eternal God, Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE #623

African American spiritual

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in my soul. (Sung twice)

I've got joy like a fountain...

I've got love like an ocean...

* PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace by learning "Peace be with you" in American Sign Language.
Children 1st grade and below may leave to go to Extended Session or remain in the pew.*

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 3:11-17; Matthew 5:44-48

SERMON

Remember Your Baptism and Be Grateful

Didier Monga

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Come to the Waters
NDPC Community Choir

G. F. Handel

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).***

COMMUNION

Everyone who seeks to know God is welcome to receive Communion.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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 kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

(sung) **Amen, amen, amen.**

Hosanna in the highest (x3).

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

St. Patrick

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, you have given yourself to us in love. Let us give ourselves to one another in love. Amen.

* CLOSING SONG

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Glory to God #490

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

May your life be a river.
May you flow with the purpose
of the One who created
and called you,
who directs your course
and turns you ever

toward home.
May your way shimmer
with the light of Christ
who goes with you
who bears you up
who calls you by name.

May you move
with the grace of the Spirit
who brooded over

the face of the waters
at the beginning
and who will gather you in
at the end.

-by Jan L. Richardson

POSTLUDE

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

arr. Michael Costello

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Image of the Day: teamLab, *Bubble Universe*, 2023 (work in progress). Interactive installation, Borderless, Azabudai Hills, Tokyo.

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,
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Huu Mai, *Music Director*

Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*
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