



*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](http://www.ndpc.org)

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

11:00 AM

*\* We stand in body or spirit*

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### **PREPARATION & ADORATION**

*The installation on the chancel – masses of stuff that literally obscure the communion table – makes visible the question we'll consider together in the season of Lent: What is blocking the way to what truly feeds us? Members of the congregation answered a call for contributions to the project – televisions, cell phones, clocks and other symbols of our day-to-day lives. These and other found objects are wired and piled together to create a tangled and chaotic collection of “too-muchness.” Can we ever hope to get rid of the stuff to see clearly what matters? Thank you to the Many Hands visual arts team who engineered and constructed this surprising and thought-provoking installation.*

**\*GATHERING SONGS**

*Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown*      Traditional Scottish arr. K. Larson  
NDPC Handbell Choir; Alice Hickcox, flute

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Allison Arsenault, liturgist

Only the harried long for solitude.  
Only the exhausted search for sabbath.  
This is a place for those who are harried and exhausted.

**Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.  
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.  
This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.**

So let us come today with our overwhelmed lives,  
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,  
**and let the God of life satisfy our souls.**

**\* OPENING SONG**

*Come to Me, O Weary Traveler (v. 1, 3, 4)*

Glory to God #184

### **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.*

TESTIMONIES ABOUT THE WHOLE40 EXPERIENCE

CELEBRATION OF REMOVING AN IMPEDIMENT TO HOLINESS

MEDITATION

In the middle  
of a life that's as complicated as everyone else's,  
struggling for balance, juggling time.  
The mantle clock that was my grandfather's  
has stopped at 9:20; we haven't had time  
to get it repaired. The brass pendulum is still,  
the chimes don't ring. One day you look out the window,  
green summer, the next, and the leaves have already fallen,  
and a grey sky lowers the horizon. Our children almost grown,  
our parents gone, it happened so fast. Each day, we must learn  
again how to love, between morning's quick coffee  
and evening's slow return. Steam from a pot of soup rises,  
mixing with the yeasty smell of baking bread. Our bodies  
twine, and the big black dog pushes his great head between;  
his tail is a metronome, 3/4 time. We'll never get there,  
Time is always ahead of us, running down the beach, urging  
us on faster, faster, but sometimes we take off our watches,  
sometimes we lie in the hammock, caught between the mesh  
of rope and the net of stars, suspended, tangled up  
in love, running out of time.

"In the Middle," by Barbara Crooker  
from *grateful.org*.

SILENCE

*Be in conversation with God--both speaking and listening--about your own relationships to time.*

\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God of daily graces,  
**To you, I will turn for nourishment along the way.**  
I will remember the simple pleasures  
of being alive,  
of being together,  
of being placed among the creations of your hands.  
**There is no moment in time where delight cannot be found. Amen.**

\*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Seek Ye First*

Glory to God #175

\* 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 – 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.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 10:38-42

*<sup>38</sup> Now as they went on their way, [Jesus] entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—indeed only one. <sup>43</sup> Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."*

### SERMON

*Our Time*

Rev. David Lewicki

## DEDICATION

### ANTHEM

*How Firm a Foundation*  
NDPC Community Choir and Congregation

arr. John Rutter

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*All gifts made to Change for Change in the month of January will support NDPC's mission partners in Guatemala, CEDEPCA. The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) is an educational institution that contributes to the transformation of lives and contexts by providing training and accompaniment, and by offering spaces for reflection to women and men from diverse Christian traditions, communities and contexts. Learn more at [www.cedepca.org](http://www.cedepca.org). **Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).***

### \* CLOSING SONG

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

Glory to God #817

### \* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Austin*

William Rowan, arr. H. Mai

## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Image of the Day:** The stump of a felled oak tree reveals the annual rings. Triff/Shutterstock  
**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*