



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

March 10th, 2024

11:00 AM

* *We rise in body or spirit*

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

*O God, You Search Me
Be Thou My Vision*

Glory to God #29
Glory to God #450

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Carter Broome, liturgist

Those who would speak without listening are afraid that the truth is inside someone else.
Those who won't sit in silence are fleeing something we will never outrun.
This is a place for those who don't yet know how to listen and those who flee from silence.

**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.**

We come today with our superficial stories and our worn-out mythologies.
We bring our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,
and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

* OPENING SONG

Faith Begins by Letting Go

Glory to God #684

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 FAITH

MEDITATION

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still.

For once on the face of the earth,
let's not speak in any language;
let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fisherman in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.
Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.

Pablo Neruda "Keeping Quiet", *Extravagaria*, 1958

SILENCE

Be in conversation with God--what is it that you find when you become totally still?

*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 more truth in silence with You than is found in all the words of the world. 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 – 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 READING

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

SERMON

Sources & Stories

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Sanctus
NDPC Community Choir

Gabriel Faure

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 March will support the PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work to serve individuals and communities by creating access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Learn more at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs>. Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).

* CLOSING SONG

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Glory to God #79

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Sower Came from Ancient Hills

John D. Horman

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Image of the Day: In this series from PRRINT, leafs from an old dictionary are overlaid with collages comprising beautiful floral illustrations and detailed anatomical sketches, inviting reflection on the way words weave their way into and out of our bodies and spirits.

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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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