



*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

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

11:00 AM

*\* We rise 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

*Amazing Grace  
Draw the Circle Wide*

J. Newton / arr. C. Tomlin  
Mark Miller

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Cribbs, liturgist

What is "news?" Is it an incessant chatter that tells us the world is polarized and terrifying?  
Or is it the breaking open of a new bud on a dogwood stem? Or the mercy of God offered anew again this morning?  
This is a place for those are stuck in the 24-hour news cycle, unaware of the "good news" all around us.

**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 hunger for information and our desire to discern deeper truths.  
We bring our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,  
**and let the God of life satisfy our souls.**

\* OPENING SONG

*I Surrender All*

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

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry, from *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*

SILENCE

*Be in conversation with God--where do you go to experience "the grace of the world?"*

\*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.  
**I will rest in the grace of this world, and be free. 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

Seigneur, mon âme (Lord, my soul)

Seigneur mon âme soupire,  
Après tes divins parvis,  
Pour t'écouter et m'instruire,  
À tes pieds toujours assis

Lord my soul sighs  
After your divine courts  
To listen to you and teach me  
At your feet always sitting

Chorus :

Forme-moi pour ton service,  
À ton école, ô Jésus,  
Que par ton Esprit, je puisse  
Prêcher ton nom aux nations

Form me for your service  
To your school, O Jesus  
That by your Spirit I may  
Preach your name to the nations

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 61

SERMON

*Worldview*

Didier Monga, Ministry Fellow

**DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

*The Lord Is My Shepherd*  
NDPC Community Choir

John Rutter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Victoria Robinson, Ministry Fellow

**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

*When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

Glory to God #852

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

John Dykes

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## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Image of the Day:** Tal Shochat, Lessons in Time 3 (Yellow Apple Tree), 2016

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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](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*