



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 3<sup>rd</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

*God Is Here Today  
The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

Glory to God #411  
Glory to God #59

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Virginia Legener, liturgist

Those who speak harshly long to have our own wounds healed.  
Those who receive harsh words long to be seen and heard.  
This is a place for those who have hurt others and those who have been hurt.

**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 anger, our misguided certainties, our judgment.  
We bring our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,  
**and let the God of life satisfy our souls.**

\* OPENING SONG

*You Are My Refuge Faithful God*

Glory to God #214

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

We sit together and I tell you things,  
Silent, unborn, naked things  
That only my God has heard me say.  
You do not cluck your tongue at me  
Or roll your eyes  
Or split my heart into a thousand thousand pieces  
With words that have little to do with me.  
You do not turn away because you cannot bear to see  
Your own unclaimed light shining in my eyes.  
You stay with me in the dark.  
You urge me into being.  
You make room in your heart for my voice.  
You rejoice in my joy.  
And through it all, you stand unbound  
By everything but the still, small Voice within you.  
I see my future Self in you  
Just enough to risk  
Moving beyond the familiar,  
Just enough to leave  
The familiar in the past where it belongs.  
I breathe you in and I breathe you out  
In one luxurious and contented sigh.  
In sweet company  
I am home at last.

In Sweet Company, by Margaret Wolff

## SILENCE

*Be in conversation with God--what relationships in your life have most strengthened your soul?*

## \*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.  
**You love us and give yourself to us each day. Every simple joy comes from you. 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 READING

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. 26Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27and do not make room for the devil. 28Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with those who are needy. 29Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. 31Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, 32and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. 51Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, 2and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

SERMON

*Social Media*

Rev. David Lewicki

**DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

*Pie Jesu*

John Rutter

NDPC Community Choir, Marielle Mai, soprano

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).*

**COMMUNION**

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

GREAT THANKSGIVING & PRAYERS

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.**

*(sung)* **Amen, amen, amen.  
Hosanna in the highest (x3).**

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

*Jerusalem*

C. Hubert & H. Parry

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Loving God, thank you for this taste of what is and what is yet to come. Send us to live, work, dance, and play for your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus, our friend, our Savior. Amen.**

\* CLOSING SONG

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

Glory to God #833

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Resignation*

Folk Melody

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## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Image of the Day:** *Human Ants*, Liverpool Street, Melbourne, Australia. Photo: Jason Goroncy. What does it take for us to see other people as people (not objects)?

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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*