



**NORTH
DECATUR
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

We welcome all.

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

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

11:00 AM

** We rise 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

*For the Beauty of the Earth (v. 1, 2, 4, 5)
Touch the Earth Lightly*

Glory to God #14
Glory to God #713

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Allison Arsenault, liturgist

As we gather in this sacred space today,
Let us pause and reflect on the beauty of creation,
On this Earth, our shared home, our sanctuary.

We come together, mindful of our connection with nature and all creation.

On this Earth Day, we lift up the sacredness of all life,
The mountains that reach toward the sky,
The rivers that flow with life-giving water,
The forests that breathe with every whisper of the wind.

To honor the Earth and all its inhabitants.

As God's stewards of the precious planet,
We commit ourselves to its protection, preserving its fragile ecosystems,
And to live in harmony with nature and each other.

May our actions be guided by care, love, and compassion,

As we strive to nurture the Earth back to health and wholeness.

* OPENING SONG

Morning Has Broken

Glory to God #664

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

*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.*

MEDITATION

"Earthrise," by Amanda Gorman

On Christmas Eve, 1968, astronaut Bill Anders
Snapped a photo of the earth
As Apollo 8 orbited the moon.

Those three guys
Were surprised
To see from their eyes
Our planet looked like an earthrise
A blue orb hovering over the moon's gray
horizon,
with deep oceans and silver skies.

It was our world's first glance at itself
Our first chance to see a shared reality,
A declared stance and a commonality;

A glimpse into our planet's mirror,
And as threats drew nearer,
Our own urgency became clearer,
As we realize that we hold nothing dearer
than this floating body we all call home.

We've known
That we're caught in the throes
Of climatic changes some say
Will just go away,
While some simply pray
To survive another day;
For it is the obscure, the oppressed, the poor,

Who when the disaster
Is declared done,
Still suffer more than anyone.

Climate change is the single greatest challenge
of our time,

Of this, you're certainly aware.
It's saddening, but I cannot spare you
From knowing an inconvenient fact, because
It's getting the facts straight that gets us to act
and not to wait.

So I tell you this not to scare you,
But to prepare you, to dare you
To dream a different reality,

Where despite disparities
We all care to protect this world,
This riddled blue marble, this little true marvel
To muster the verve and the nerve
To see how we can serve
Our planet. You don't need to be a politician
To make it your mission to conserve, to protect,
To preserve that one and only home
That is ours,
To use your unique power
To give next generations the planet they
deserve.

In the quiet, reflect on the love of God flowing in and through you to a dry and thirsty world.

RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Divine Creator, God of the lands and the seas, and of all the living creatures.

In you, we are new creatures in flesh and spirit.

Spirit made flesh, died, and resurrected from the dead so that our hope may be made whole.

In you, we are reconciled with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with nature. Amen!

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God #582

* 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

Diane Wilkes and Ellen Gadberry

*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 READINGS

Matthew 14:15-21

SERMON

Absolute Sustainability

Didier Monga

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Bridge Over Troubled Water
NDPC Community Choir

Paul Simon, arr. Kirby Shaw

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

David Wilkes

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. Amen

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*Change-for-Change contributions in April support Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc. (MDM). Located only five miles from North Decatur, MDM provides safe, affordable, and welcoming space for numerous nonprofits, worshipping communities, and community groups that serve the diverse, predominantly refugee population in the greater-Clarkston area. Learn more about Memorial Drive Ministries and its onsite partners at mdmATL.org **Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).***

* CLOSING SONG

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Glory to God #475

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Terra Beata

English Melody, arr. Joel Raney

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's flowers are given by the Creation Care team in honor of Earth Day.

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

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops is available to meet to support your spiritual, mental, and physical health. Pastoral care is confidential and can be held in-person or virtually. maryanona@ndpc.org,

Revs. David Lewicki and Erin Reed Cooper are on leave April-May.

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*