



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

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 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

*O God, You Search Me  
Draw the Circle Wide*

Glory to God #29  
Mark Miller

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rick Neale, liturgist

Friends, we know what God desires of us:

**That we seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.**

We gather this morning to remind each other about that,

**To remember that now is always the right time to be led to action.**

So with thanks and wrestling in our hearts, let us worship God.

#### \* OPENING SONG

*A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar (v. 2, 3, 4)*

Glory to God #201

#### 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

rupi kaur

i want to apologize to all the women  
i have called pretty  
before i've called them intelligent or brave.  
i am sorry i made it sound as though  
something as simple as what you're born with  
is the most you have to be proud of  
when your spirit has crushed mountains  
from now on i will say things like, you are resilient  
or, you are extraordinary.  
not because i don't think you're pretty.  
but because you are so much more than that

## SILENCE

*Selah: pause and reflect on how God is meeting you in these words.*

## RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

### \*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to mindsets or categories that diminish us.

**Or forever hold us to what we once believed.**

To love as Jesus loves is to know one another as beloved children of God.

**The way of Jesus opens our eyes and changes us, and when we change, the world changes.**

Thanks be to God, who leads us on paths of resurrection.

**In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven, loved, and free.**

### \*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

*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 7:36-50

### SERMON

*A is for Alabaster*

Victoria Robinson

## DEDICATION

### ANTHEM

*I'm Gonna Sing 'til the Spirit*  
NDPC Community Choir

Moses Hogan

### 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. 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](http://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

*To My Precious Lord*

Glory to God #704

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*I Danced in the Morning*

19<sup>th</sup> Century Shaker Melody

+++

## 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 to the right — we will send you our weekly e-newsletter. You can learn more about NDPC's ministries and social justice work at [www.ndpc.org](http://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,

### 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)

**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](mailto: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*