



**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

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**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

11:00 AM

*\* We rise in body or spirit*

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**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

NDPC Community Drumming Circle

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

-adapted from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community  
(Daytona Beach, FL)  
Sylvia Broome, liturgist

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, y no habla Ingles.

**We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.**

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're “just browsing,” just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're in church every Sunday, or haven't been in church since little Katy's Baptism.

**We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.**

We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

**We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like “organized religion,” we've been there too.**

If you blew all your offering money gambling, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

**We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts.**

We welcome everyone. Even... no, *especially* you!

\* OPENING SONG

*The Feast Is Ready*

Glory to God #505

## 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.*

## MEDITATION

It is my nature that makes me love you often,  
For I am love itself.

It is my longing that makes me love you intensely,  
For I yearn to be loved from the heart.

It is my eternity that makes me love you long,  
For I have no end.

"How God Answers the Soul," by Mechtilde of Magdeburg  
from *Beguine Spirituality*, 1989.

## SILENCE

*In the silence, let God love you.*

## RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

### \*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

I John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God;

**everyone who loves is born of Love and knows God.**

This is the good news we need today.

**In Christ God's love is present with us  
and we are forgiven, loved, and free! Amen.**

### \*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*

Glory to God #770

### \* 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

John 20:19-31

### SERMON

*When Love Shows Up*

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

## DEDICATION

ANTHEM

*My Lord, What a Morning*  
NDPC Community Choir

Spiritual/arr. Jay Althouse

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

*I Come with Joy*

Glory to God #515

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

Spiritual arr. M. Hayes

## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Image of the Day:** James He Qi, *The Doubt of St. Thomas*, 2014.

**Today's flowers** are provided by Anne and Jim Topple.

**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](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, 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)

**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. Email [david@ndpc.org](mailto:david@ndpc.org), [maryanona@ndpc.org](mailto:maryanona@ndpc.org), and [erin@ndpc.org](mailto:erin@ndpc.org). **Revs. David Lewicki and Erin Reed Cooper are on leave April-May.**

## NDPC PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. David Lewicki (he/him), *Pastor*

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops (she/her), *Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper (she/her), *Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries*

Huu Mai (he/him), *Music Director*