



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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 12, 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

Sanctuary
Nothing More
NDPC Youth Band

Glory to God #701
The Alternative Routes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 93, adapted
Carter Broome, liturgist

God is robed in strength and power - She has established the world and given it stability.
Like a loving Mother, she gives us life and sustains us and feeds us.

Her love for us lasts forever.

She has sent Her Beloved Child to show us the way to live our lives,
to walk in the ways of love and justice and mercy.

Now Christ has gone up with a shout to be with God!

That means – oh wow – that means that we are now the witnesses
to this way of love and justice and mercy.

**Thank You, God, for creating us; Thank You, Jesus, for loving us;
Thank You, Holy Spirit, for giving us the tools we need to walk in Your light. Amen.**

* OPENING SONG

Come Sing, O Church, In Joy

Glory to God #305

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.*

LITANY FOR MOTHERS' DAY

O God, we thank You for loving us and for claiming us as Your children in Jesus Christ. We thank You for allowing us to call You "Mother."

We are grateful for Your powerful and steadfast love in our lives, a love that will not let us go, no matter who we are or what we do.

O God, on this Mother's Day, we thank You for our mothers – our biological mothers and all those other mother figures in our lives.

We are grateful for all the gifts that our mothers gave to us – enduring love, challenging love, nurturing love. They have shown us that the power of love is deep and wide.

We are grateful to Jesus Christ for bringing us Your mothering love, for his showing us that love is the way, that all of us can be mothers, one to the other.

God, we give You thanks for all those who have shared mothering love with us – grandmas, aunts, teachers, preachers, coaches, counselors, church members, and others.

We thank You for calling us to share motherly love with people, for reminding us that all of us are called to share motherly love, no matter who we are.

Help us to hear that in Jesus Christ, You are calling all of us to share motherly love in our lives. Help us to live as Your children and to welcome others in the name of Your mothering love. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

SILENCE

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

RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved, let us love one another because God is love
Everyone who loves is born of love and knows God.
This is the good news that gives us life today:
In the Risen Christ, God's love is present with us.
We are forgiven, loved, and free. Alleluia! 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

*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 READING

ACTS 1:1-14

SERMON

We Are the Ones We've Been Waiting For

Caroline Leach
Nibs Stroupe

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

May It Be
NDPC Community Choir

Mark Brymer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us, we call upon your names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, in all the spaces in which you dwell. Give us each day sustenance and perseverance. Remind us of our limits as we give grace to the limits of others. Separate us from the temptation of empire, and deliver us into community. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us, now and forever.

Amen.

adapted by Rev. Yolanda Norton
Chair of Black Church Studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

Change-for-Change contributions in May support our free fridge ministries. The ATL FreeFridge is supported through mutual aid and is open every day, 24/7, for all to give as they can and take as they need. To further support the fridge community, NDPC provides a case manager who meets with anyone in seeking advice and referrals for mental health and health services, housing, and more. **Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).**

* CLOSING SONG

Arise, Your Light is Come

Glory to God #744

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rejoice Greatly

George Frederick Handel

+++

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's flowers are given by Pat and Heinz Mueller.

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. 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 assistive 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*