



*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

July 14, 2024

10:00 AM

\* *We rise in body or spirit*

### PREPARATION & ADORATION

*As we prepare for worship, we do so in song. Singing makes us “one body”—breathing, moving, and vibrating together. Feel free to stand up or stay seated, listen with your eyes closed, or sing along.*

#### GATHERING SONGS

*Thy Word*  
*Amazing Grace*

Michael Smith & Amy Grant  
J. Newton / arr. C. Tomlin

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Tucker Schoeneberg, liturgist

God, here we are today:

Here to worship

**Here to sing**

Here to pray

**Here to encounter your Word.**

God, we are here today:

Here, to know that we are not alone

**Here, to resist the powers that commodify our lives**

Here, to experience joy

**Here, to feel alive.**

God, we are here today:

**Be with us, sweet, sweet Spirit!**

#### \* OPENING SONG

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* (v. 1-2)

Glory to God #408

#### 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

He was born in an obscure village,  
the child of a peasant woman.  
He grew up in still another village  
where he worked until he was thirty.  
Then for three years  
he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.  
He never held an office.  
He never had a family or owned a home.  
He didn't go to college.  
He never traveled more than 200 miles  
from the place he was born.

He did none of the things  
one usually associates with greatness.  
He had no credentials but himself;  
he was only thirty-three  
when public opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.  
He was turned over to his enemies  
and went through the mockery of a trial.  
He was nailed to the cross  
between two thieves.  
While he was dying  
his executioners gambled for his clothing,  
the only property he had on earth.

When he was dead  
he was laid in a borrowed grave  
through the pity of a friend.  
[Twenty] centuries have come and gone  
and today he is the central figure  
of the human race,  
the leader of [human]kind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched,  
all the navies that ever sailed,  
all the parliaments that ever sat,  
all the kings that ever reigned,  
put together,  
have not affected  
the life of [humanity] on earth  
as much as that One Solitary Life

“One Solitary Life,” by James Allan Francis,  
*The Real Jesus and Other Sermons* (Philadelphia: Judson Press, 1926).

#### SILENCE

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

#### RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

##### \*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

-attributed to St. Patrick (390-461CE)

Christ be with me, Christ within me  
**Christ behind me, Christ before me**  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me  
**Christ to comfort me and restore me.**  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me  
**Christ in quiet, Christ in danger**

Christ in hearts of all that love me  
**Christ in mouth of friend or stranger.**

\*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Glory to God*

Glory to God #582

\* PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace by learning "Peace be with you" in American Sign Language; or, if you choose, shake hands or offer a warm embrace to those Beloveds of God who are seated near you. Children can stay in the sanctuary or find a quiet activity in the children's corner in the narthex.*

### **PROCLAMATION**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:27-30

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29 He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

SERMON

*What do we mean when we say "Jesus?"*

Rev. David Lewicki

### **DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

*The Gift of Love*  
NDPC Summer Singers

English Melody, arr. H. Hopson

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.**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*Change-for-Change contributions in July support the Back-to-School Drive. Starting the school year with the right tools and uniforms is important for children's self-esteem and confidence. Each summer, NDPC raises funds for school supplies for the children living in housing provided by the Initiative for Affordable Housing (IAH), for the children served by Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM) and the International Community School (ICS). 100% of donations in July support the drive. Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).*

\* CLOSING SONG

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Glory to God #182

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Variations on "Kremser"*

Netherlands Folk Song

## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Local fiber artist Anne Earle, a friend to many at NDPC, was commissioned by the Worship Committee to craft a visual invitation to ponder the green and growing time of God's creation, known on the liturgical calendar as Ordinary Time. Anne's cheerful work and flowing composition was created with detailed hand-stitching, colorful adornments, and vibrant and varied green fabrics, including pieces that were made by members of our church community earlier this year. You are invited to come to the chancel after worship today to take a moment to look at Anne's craftsmanship on both the front and back of the communion table piece. You'll see the signatures of the workshop participants and a thoughtfully made image that represents NDPC's place at its literal intersection with the neighborhood.

**Image of the Day:** various images; creative commons

**Today's flowers** are donated by Ashley Kane.

**Music & Lyrics** are printed/streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-719269 and CCLI #21115205 & 21115212; CCS PERFORMANCEmusic & 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! It takes courage to show up at a new church. Please introduce yourself to those around you as you are comfortable. If you share your email address in the red Welcome Pads, we will send you the weekly NDPC e-newsletter. You can learn more about NDPC's programs at [www.ndpc.org](http://www.ndpc.org). We come from many different backgrounds, traditions, and cultures to worship. Feel free to use language and pronouns for God and for yourself that are authentic to you. After worship, the pastors would love to meet you in person.

## 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.

**Would a large print hymnal, magnifying glass, or hearing assist device be helpful to you during worship?** Ask an usher and they will gladly help you.

**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 previous 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 for pastoral care. 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), or [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*