



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

July 21, 2024

10:00 AM

* *We rise in body or spirit*

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount

arr. J. Wilson

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L'Anni Hill, liturgist

Magnificat, by John Shea

All that I am
sings of the God
who brings life
to birth in me.
My spirit soars
on the wings of my Lord.
God has smiled on me
and the blaze of that smile
no woman or man
shall ever forget.

**My God is a gentle strength
who has caught me up
and carried me to greatness.
God's love
space cannot hold
nor time age
and all quicken to God's touch.**

My God is a torrent of justice.
God takes the straight paths
in the minds of the proud
and twists them to labyrinth.
The boot of the oppressor
God pushes aside
and raises the lowly,
whom God loves,
from the ground.
God's own hands
set a table for the hungry
but the unfeeling rich
suffer the cold eye
of judgment.

**Our mothers and our fathers
have been held in God's arms
and the future grows
like this child within me
for the God of whom I sing
bears us a son.**

* OPENING SONG

Canticle of the Turning

Glory to God #100

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

I lived in the first century of world wars.
Most mornings I would be more or less insane,
The newspapers would arrive with their careless stories,
The news would pour out of various devices
Interrupted by attempts to sell products to the unseen.
I would call my friends on other devices;
They would be more or less mad for similar reasons.
Slowly I would get to pen and paper,
Make my poems for others unseen and unborn.
In the day I would be reminded of those men and women,
Brave, setting up signals across vast distances,
Considering a nameless way of living, of almost unimagined values.
As the lights darkened, as the lights of night brightened,
We would try to imagine them, try to find each other,
To construct peace, to make love, to reconcile
Waking with sleeping, ourselves with each other,
Ourselves with ourselves. We would try by any means
To reach the limits of ourselves, to reach beyond ourselves,
To let go the means, to wake.

I lived in the first century of these wars.

By Muriel Rukeyser, "Poem" from *The Speed of Darkness*, 1968.

SILENCE

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

RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Even now,
God comes to you,
with hope,
forgiveness,
grace upon grace:
gifts, freely offered.

God, we receive these gifts! Alleluia and Amen!

*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

Galatians 5:1, 13-14, 22-23

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Live by the Spirit.... [T]he fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

SERMON

The Coming Election

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Consolation No. 4

Franz Liszt

LuAnn Latzanich, piano

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

This Is My Song

Glory to God #340

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. B. Wolaver

Following the Postlude, you are invited to stay in the Sanctuary for a conversation in which we will listen to one another's hopes, fears, and plans for action around the presidential election.

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.

We welcome today's guest musician, LuAnn Latzanich.

Image of the Day: *Pink See-Saws*, installation on the US-Mexico border between Sunland Park, New Mexico and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, by Virginia San Fratello and Ronald Rael, 2019.

Today's flowers are donated by Susan Diffenderfer.

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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. 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.

Videos of previous 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

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, maryanona@ndpc.org, or 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*