



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

We welcome all.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 28, 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 SONG

O God, You Search Me

Glory to God #29

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Marie Hodgman-Schoeneberg, liturgist
Psalm 27, adapted

Love is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

Love is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

When fears assail me, rising up to overwhelm me, each one shall be held in Love's light.

Though I wrestle with doubt and uncertainty, yet shall I remain hopeful.

One thing I have asked of the Beloved, that I shall ever seek:

To dwell in Love's house all the days of my life.

That I may behold the light of the Beloved and know Love's ways.

Take courage in God's presence, O my soul, wait patiently, yes, wait for God.

* OPENING SONG

In The Bulb There Is a Flower

Glory to God #250

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

Having loved enough and lost enough,
I'm no longer searching
just opening,

no longer trying to make sense of pain
but trying to be a soft and sturdy home
in which real things can land.

These are the irritations
that rub into a pearl.

So we can talk for a while
but then we must listen,
the way rocks listen to the sea.

And we can churn at all that goes wrong
but then we must lay all distractions
down and water every living seed.

And yes, on nights like tonight
I too feel alone. But seldom do I
face it squarely enough
to see that it's a door
into the endless breath
that has no breather,
into the surf that human
shells call God.

By Mark Nepo, "Having Loved Enough and Lost Enough" from *The Book of Awakening*, 2000.

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,
 abundant mercy,
 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

Matthew 5:14-16a

You are the light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one lights a lamp and puts it under a bushel basket. Instead, it is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Let your light shine.

SERMON

Let Your Light Shine

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

A Flower Remembered
NDPC Summer Singers

John Rutter

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

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go (vs. 1-3)

Glory to God #833

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sacred the Body

Colin Gibson

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: photo by Mary Anona Stoops

Today's flowers are donated by Roberta Goldbaugh.

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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*