



*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

August 18, 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

*Come All You People*

Glory to God #388

CHIMES

SILENT PREPARATION

*We enter God's presence in silence.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Tveit, liturgist

Holy Wisdom,  
we are seekers on the way to a deeper wisdom and a wider vision.  
**Our lives are full of information and opinions,  
but in the midst of it, we long to hear your voice –  
cutting through the noise and teaching us how to live.**

God, we have come this morning  
to learn Wisdom from your Word,  
from your Holy Spirit,  
and from one another.

**Let Wisdom call us out of the darkness  
and into the light.**

Make us ready to hear your Wisdom  
**and grant us the courage to respond.**

\* OPENING SONG

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

Glory to God #307

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Visitors are invited to leave your name and contact information by signing the Welcome Pad.*

## MEDITATION

Look, the trees  
are turning  
their own bodies  
into pillars  
of light,  
are giving off the rich  
fragrance of cinnamon  
and fulfillment,  
the long tapers  
of cattails  
are bursting and floating away over  
the blue shoulders  
of the ponds,  
and every pond,  
no matter what its  
name is, is  
nameless now.  
Every year  
everything  
I have ever learned  
in my lifetime  
leads back to this: the fires  
and the black river of loss  
whose other side  
is salvation,  
whose meaning  
none of us will ever know.  
To live in this world  
you must be able  
to do three things:  
to love what is mortal;  
to hold it  
against your bones knowing  
your own life depends on it;  
and, when the time comes to let it go,  
to let it go.

“In Blackwater Woods” by Mary Oliver,  
from American Primitive. © Back Bay Books, 1983.

## SILENCE

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

## RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

### \*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

by John O’Donohue

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,  
**May the clarity of light be yours,**  
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,  
**May the protection of the ancestors be yours.**  
May the peace of the Risen Christ be with us all.

\*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 are invited to come forward to sit in front of the baptismal font, with or without their adult.*

### **PROCLAMATION**

WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

*After, children can stay in the sanctuary or find a quiet activity in the children’s corner in the narthex.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Be Thou My Vision*

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Cor. 15:1-6

*Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. 3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures 4 and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.*

SERMON

*What do we mean by sin and salvation?*

Rev. David Lewicki

### **DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

*Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us*  
NDPC Summer Singers

William P. Rowan

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 August support NDPC’s partnerships with local organizations serving immigrants and refugees in Atlanta: Team Libertad, which coordinates support for immigrants at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, and El Refugio, which provides hospitality to families of immigrants at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA. 100% of donations in August support these organizations. Text ‘NDPC C4C’ \$20 (or any amount) to 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).*

\* CLOSING SONG

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Glory to God #610

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Truro*

Anonymous

## 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:** Cattails; Source: public domain.

**Today's flowers** are donated by Becky Evans.

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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](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 are also free to move around a bit in the narthex, where you can listen to worship with your child, or there are child-friendly quiet activities that can be taken to your seat. Kids are a gift, not a disruption.

**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*