



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

September 15, 2024

11:00 AM

An \* means we rise together in body or spirit; **bold text** words are spoken in unison.

---

### 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

*Down to the River to Pray*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

*We enter God's presence in silence.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Johann Weber, liturgist

Our God flings stars into space and says,  
"See! You are all my children,  
each and every one."

**We come, stars in the skies,  
Grains of sand on the shore,  
all God's children everywhere,**  
drawn to God,  
**drawn to love,  
drawn to worship.**

\* OPENING SONG

*In a Deep Unbounded Darkness*

Glory to God #850

## MEDITATION

Sure on this shining night  
Of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.  
The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.

-James Agee, from the poem, "Description of Elysium"  
*The Collected Poems of James Agee*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1968)

## SILENCE

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

## \*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**In God,  
We are all one,  
We are all part  
of the same family,  
We are all part of the same story,  
Forgiven, loved, and free.**

## \*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Siyahamba*

Glory to God #853

## \* 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 the 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

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR WILLIAM AND ELLA KELLER

Charge to the congregation:

*Do you as members of this congregation promise to guide and nurture William and Ella by your words  
and your deeds, and with love and prayer, encourage them to discover the Spirit of Christ in their life  
and to live as a member of the Body of Christ? If so, say **"We do."***

Closing Prayer:

**William and Ella, our little siblings in Christ,  
With great joy we welcome you into the family of Jesus.  
What God will make of you, we don't know. Where God will take you, we can't say.  
Walk with us. Share with us in this life of love, compassion, mercy, and peace.  
And know this: God is with you always! Amen.**

*Children in Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to go to Worship & Wonder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Education Hall.  
Parents/guardians can meet your kids there right after worship. Children may also remain in worship.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Be Thou My Vision*

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 15:1-6

SONG

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*  
Jerel Jefferson, soloist

REFLECTING ON THE STORY

Rev. David Lewicki

### DEDICATION

ANTHEM

*Sure on this Shining Night*  
NDPC Community Choir

Samuel Barber

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Christopher Ng, Ministry Fellow

**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 September support the Presbyterian Women's annual Thank Offering. The Thank Offering is received by Presbyterian Women's groups around the country and supports organizations serving survivors of human trafficking, homeless youth, and children with incarcerated parents. Learn more at [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what\\_we\\_do/support-mission/thank-offering/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/thank-offering/). 100% of donations in September support the Thank Offering, so give generously. **Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).***

\* CLOSING SONG

*The God of Abraham Praise*

Glory to God #49

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Blessed Assurance*

Phoebe Palmer

## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Image of the Day:** Goodbye, Orion, by O. Heda (flickr, creative commons), Zion National Park (creative commons); Globular Cluster NGC 1850, Hubble Telescope.

**Today's flowers** are donated by Barbara Gifford and Jean Wright.

**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! 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 welcome in worship at NDPC.** The nursery, located off the hallway just outside the sanctuary door, is open for kids 0-3. Kids are free to move around in the narthex, where you can listen to worship with your child, and there are child-friendly quiet activities in the Children's Corner that can be taken back to your seat. The presence of children in worship is a gift, never a disruption.

**Would a large print hymnal, magnifying glass, or hearing assist device help you worship?** Ask an usher and they will gladly assist you. Let us know how we can make worship accessible for 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.

**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*  
Jerel Jefferson, *Music Fellow*  
Carolyn Mielle, *Music Fellow*  
Christopher Ng, *Ministry Fellow*

**CONTACT NDPC:** Office Phone: 404-636-1429; Office Email: [office@ndpc.org](mailto:office@ndpc.org)