



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)

*We welcome all.*

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 20, 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

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*  
NDPC Handbell Choir

Martha Lynn Thompson

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

*We enter God's presence in silence.*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Tveit, liturgist

Come!

Here we are, in God's house!

**God's house?**

Yes! God's house!

**Are you sure?**

Of course I'm sure!

**But God comes from the wilderness.**

**God was just as happy living in a tent.**

**Our God is always on the move.**

Maybe God's "house" is really a "people."

**Here we are: we are God's house!**

\* OPENING SONG

*Let us Build a House*

Glory to God #301

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

Ever Vigilant: Julius V. Combs, MD, *August 5, 1931–April 1, 2020*

Beneath Elm trees  
sheltering Hazlett Street,  
vigilant descendants  
of enslaved wombs,  
of steel-bone labor,  
like religious resistance,  
reimagine existence.

When a child visits  
a physician,  
sees a Black man  
in a white coat,  
and within a flash,  
envisions his mission:  
“I am going  
to be a doctor.”

Julius commits  
to covenants  
as husband, father,  
brother, son, friend,  
and physician,  
countering inequities  
with a deep belief  
in an oath  
to sustain life,  
to realize hope  
for impoverished  
patients surviving  
dark parts of cities,  
like Detroit’s  
Westside,  
where he became,  
reflecting on the  
arc of tree limbs,  
supplying fresh

oxygen for lungs  
and cool shade for  
sizzling summer days.  
Then, the consequence  
of disease destroys  
the Elms,  
leaving empty skies  
and abandoned homes  
as factory closings  
wound neighborhoods,  
hemorrhaging like  
bodily injuries.

And yet,  
ever vigilant,  
Julius V. Combs, MD,  
continues to protect  
our flesh,  
to change hospital  
restrictions,  
to revolutionize  
health care rules,  
to deliver thousands  
of souls at birth,  
resurrecting a  
legacy that defies  
this contentious,  
stillborn nation  
that undermines  
nature and  
conspires to  
smother a Black  
child’s first gasp  
for breath.

- “Ever Vigilant: Julius V. Combs, MD,” by Melba Joyce Boyd (*Poetry, July/August 2023*)

SILENCE

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

RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**God, you make your home in our hearts.  
There, you establish mercy, justice, and peace,  
so that wherever we go, you are with us.  
Wherever we are, we are home!**

\*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Siyahamba*

Glory to God #583

\* 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**

WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

*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

*Spirit of the Living God*

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7:1-17

REFLECTING ON THE STORY

Rev. David Lewicki

**DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

*A Gaelic Blessing*  
NDPC Community Choir

John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,  
Deep peace of Christ,  
The light of the world to you,  
Deep peace of Christ to you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

**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.**

2025 GRATITUDE CAMPAIGN

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*Change-for-Change contributions in October support NDPC's Haiti Eco-Village School partnership, 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

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

Glory to God #327

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Old-Time Religion*

arr. Mark Hayes

## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Images of the Day:** Broken tombstone at Alloway Auld Kirk, South Ayrshire, Scotland; Meditation: Close up of examination at PMI hospital; a hospital for women and children, World Bank.

**Today's flowers** are given in honor of Mary Elizabeth Etheridge's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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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 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*

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