



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

November 24, 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. Music 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 MUSIC

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

Glory to God #5

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

We enter God's presence in silence.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Cribbs, liturgist

God knows us,
knows our names, knows our hearts.
God is in us still:
God is written deep within.
God knows us, we know God,
and so we come together, God's own,
to worship and praise.

OPENING SONG

Spirit, Open My Heart

Glory to God #692

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

You wept in your mother's arms
and I knew that from then on
I was to forget myself.

Listening to your sobs,
I was resolved against my will
to do well by us
and so I said, without thinking,
in great panic, To do wrong
in one's own judgment,
though others thrive by it,
is the right road to blessedness.
Not to submit to error
is in itself wrong
and pride.

Standing beside you,
I took an oath
to make your life simpler
by complicating mine
and what I always thought
would happen did:
I was lifted up in joy.

David Ignatow, "Listening" from *I Have a Name*. Copyright © 1996.

SILENCE

REFLECTING ON THE MEDITATION

Thanksgiving can be a wonderful—albeit sometimes complicated—time with family. Consider using this season to have at least one “good” conversation. Invite someone to tell you about themselves. Ask good questions. Really listen. As the poem above suggests, listening to another person can make their life “simpler” and can “complicate” our own. But this is also, strangely, a joy.

For a list of great conversation questions, go to: <https://storycorps.org/participate/great-questions/>

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

-after Psalm 27

God is our light and our salvation;
whom shall we fear?

**God is the stronghold of our life;
of whom shall we be afraid?**

One thing we asked of God;
this we seek:

**to live in God's house
all the days of our life,
to behold God's beauty,
and learn at God's feet.**

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

I Woke Up This Morning

* 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

Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

Children in Pre-K – 3rd grade are invited to go to Worship & Wonder in the 2nd 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

Jeremiah, portions of 36 and 31:31-34

SERMON

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

\ ANTHEM

O Love

NDPC Community Choir

by Elaine Hagenberg,
text by George Matheson

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seeks me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elder Roberta Goldbaugh

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 November support NDPC's partnership with Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry (DEAM), Decatur's trusted answer to the problem of food insecurity, 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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Glory to God #792

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Upward Way

Lani Smith

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's choral offering, "O Love," by Elaine Hagenberg (2016), is a fresh rendering of verses from the hymn "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" (#833 in Glory to God). The poem was written by Scottish minister George Matheson in 1881 on the eve of his sister's wedding. Of it he said, "I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes, and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction. I have no natural gift of rhythm. All the other verses I have ever written are manufactured articles; this came like a dayspring from on high."

Image of the Day: Meditation: Venice, by Roberto Trombetta (flickr: Creative Commons); Sermon: Jeremiah, by Michaelangelo (Sistine Chapel), Käthe Kollwitz, *The Parents (Die Eltern)* from "War" (Krieg), 1921-22.

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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 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.

Videos of previous worship services are available at 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, 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*

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