



*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

December 8, 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

*Maranatha*  
NDPC Handbell Choir

Jeffery Honore

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

*We enter God's presence in silence.*

OPENING SONG

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Glory to God #107

*Through the four Sundays of Advent, we build a manger. This container, intended to feed animals and made from found objects, becomes a container for more precious things: the dreams of ancient prophets, the longing of the human spirit, "the hopes and fears of all the years."*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lenore Cochran, liturgist

Holy One,  
the season of vision is upon us:  
**a vision for the future,**  
**a vision of your promise,**  
**a vision for all that is to be.**  
As we light this candle,  
**May we keep our eyes on your vision.**

*(sung refrain, O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## MEDITATION

### *For Detroit*

There are birds here,  
so many birds here  
is what I was trying to say  
when they said those birds were metaphors  
for what is trapped  
between buildings  
and buildings. No.  
The birds are here  
to root around for bread  
the girl's hands tear  
and toss like confetti. No,  
I don't mean the bread is torn like cotton,  
I said confetti, and no  
not the confetti  
a tank can make of a building.  
I mean the confetti  
a boy can't stop smiling about  
and no his smile isn't much  
like a skeleton at all. And no  
his neighborhood is not like a war zone.  
I am trying to say  
his neighborhood  
is as tattered and feathered  
as anything else,  
as shadow pierced by sun  
and light parted  
by shadow-dance as anything else,  
but they won't stop saying  
how lovely the ruins,  
how ruined the lovely  
children must be in that birdless city.

-Jamaal May, "There Are Birds Here"  
from The Big Book of Exit Strategies. Copyright © 2016

## SILENCE

### \*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

by Bruce Prewer

At the end of a long journey  
for a called people seeking a destiny;  
**at the end of an enforced trek**  
**to a highland town with no room for the poor,**  
at the end of the hard travail  
for a teenage woman sheltering in a shed:  
**came the unspeakable Gift;**  
the wondrous self-emptying, the embodied word, the great folly of God;  
a baby crying in the night  
**who frightened jeweled kings and shook the gates of hell.**

\*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

While We Are Waiting, Come

Glory to God #92

\* 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, with or without their adult.*

**PROCLAMATION**

WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

*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

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 64:1-12

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Conversation, using Menti

Rev. David Lewicki

**DEDICATION**

ANTHEM

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*  
NDPC Community Choir

Antonio Vivaldi

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Christopher Ng

**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 December support the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. Part of the origin of this fund at NDPC in the 1970s was to help women access reproductive healthcare when it was not widely available. In the current moment, this function of the fund has become important again. If you know of someone who is prevented from getting access to reproductive care under Georgia law, please reach out to the pastors for help. In addition, we will also consider requests to help undocumented immigrants secure safety for themselves and their families. Donations to the PDF are also used for church and community members experiencing financial emergencies. Text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73256 (or leave an offering in the plate on your way out today).*

\* CLOSING SONG

*When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

Glory to God #852

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Star of the County Down*

Trad. Irish Carol

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## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Today's choral offering**, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" is the first movement of Antonio Vivaldi's enduringly popular choral work, *Gloria*. It is a setting of a liturgical acclamation from the Latin Mass, named for its opening word.

**Images of the Day:** Irenaeus Yurchuk (Ириней Юрчук), *Nativity*, 2022. Mixed media on canvas.

Meditation: Guilherme Jófili; a kid having fun collecting all the confetti, flickr.com, Creative Commons.

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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*

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