



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

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 Honoré

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 – 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

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

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 (Ірине́й Юрчу́к), *Nativity*, 2022. Mixed media on canvas. Meditation: Guilherme Jófil; 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**. 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,
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