



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

January 26, 2025

11:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

GATHERING SONG *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* Glory to God #377

CHIMES & SILENT PRAYER *We enter God's presence in silence.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

-by Roddy Hamilton

"Come follow me," he said as he walked
towards us.
"Leave the nets behind. Become nets yourself.
We have an adventure to be part of."
And so we left with him not knowing what lay
in front of us.

In front of me was my sick child.
When her father left our daughter to find
Jesus
he knew he'd never see her again.
But Jesus never gave up.
We left him with her
and after what seemed an eternity he called,
'Your daughter is alive and hungry'
and so we threw our sadness into
celebration
that she had been called back to life.

I was called back to life.
I was once dead,
not the death of eternity, worse than that,
the death of the living.
I am a tax-collector.
My death was the silence and hatred of others
until I climbed a tree,
and was invited back into my own home by
Jesus

for a meal—through which I was reborn,
a new person now called a friend of God.
I was on my way.

I am on my way, too,
but not in some biblical story.
I am seeking
God's justice *today*,
God's hope *now*,
God's intent *in me*,
to call out the life in me,
and set it free in the world,
to be a follower of adventures,
a follower of dreams,
a follower of love.

Be a follower of love,
join the fishermen and tax collectors,
the women and children,
the sick and poor,
the needy and hopeful:
we are called to be fully alive in this world,
we are called to be the hands and feet of
heaven,
we are called to be all we can be,
we are called to follow.

* OPENING SONG

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Glory to God #721

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

Vocation comes from the Latin vocare, to call, and means the work a person is called to by God.

There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of Society, say, or the Superego, or Self-Interest.

By and large a good rule for finding out is this. The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done. If you really get a kick out of your work, you've presumably met requirement (a), but if your work is writing TV deodorant commercials, the chances are you've missed requirement (b). On the other hand, if your work is being a doctor in a leper colony, you have probably met requirement (b), but if most of the time you're bored and depressed by it, the chances are you have not only bypassed (a) but probably aren't helping your patients much either.

Neither the hair shirt nor the soft berth will do. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

-Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking* (1973)

SILENCE

Consider how God is speaking to you in these words.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Listen to the words of Jesus, words that we can trust:

"Don't be afraid. Your sins are forgiven. I love you. Come and follow me."

In Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and free!

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

I've Got Peace Like a River

Glory to God #198

* 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, either alone or with an adult.

PROCLAMATION

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

There are varieties of services, but the same Lord;

There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each of us is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Today, we give thanks for the service of our outgoing elders: Martin Cochran (youth), Matt Eby, Ray Glier, Rusty Godwin, Ariel Hart, Anna Kershaw, Scott Pieper, and Tucker Schoeneberg (youth).

The congregation of North Decatur Presbyterian Church has elected to the office of Ruling Elder: Ruth Bonner (youth), Charlie Cromwell, Susan Henschen, Christine Jolley, Mike Nichols, Kieva Morrison (youth), Pat Mueller, and Lynne Repasky.

The Constitutional Questions

Do you trust in Jesus Christ, acknowledge the authority of Christ's love in the church and in the world, and through Christ believe in God who is 3-in-1: God, Christ, & Spirit?

I do.

Do you accept the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus

Christ, and God's word to you?

I do.

Do you receive and adopt the tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable interpretations of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by these confessions as you lead the people of God?

I do and will.

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the guidance of Scripture and our confessions?

I will.

Will you be governed by our church's rules, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend to others in the church, working with them, listening together for the ordering of God's word and Spirit?

Question for the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept these ruling elders as those who are chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ?

We do.

The Prayer of Ordination and Installation and Laying on of Hands

All those who are ordained as ruling or teaching elders (pastors) may come forward to lay hands.

The Declaration of Installation and Welcome

Dear friends, you are now ordained and installed to the office of Elder in the church of Jesus Christ and for the North Decatur Presbyterian Church. Amen!

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God #606

Children 1st grade and below may leave to go to Extended Session or remain in the pew

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:1-11

RESPONDING THE WORD

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Blest Are the Eyes That Have Not Seen You
NDPC Community Choir; Alejandra Sandoval, soprano soloist

Fred Gramann

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elder Jesse Bowen

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

*Our Change-for-Change contributions in January support **Presbyterians for a Better Georgia** (PBG). PBG is a voluntary partnership of Presbyterian congregations who work together on public policy advocacy at the Georgia statehouse, focusing on ending homelessness, increasing affordable housing, and expanding access to physical and mental healthcare. To participate in PBG, visit www.p4bg.org.*

To give by text, text 'NDPC C4C' \$20 (or any amount) to 73256. You may also **use the QR Code**. Scan the code, enter the amount of your gift, and in the dropdown menu called "Fund," find "Change for Change." **To give cash**, leave an offering in the plate on your way out today. Thank you for supporting NDPC!



* CLOSING SONG

Come! Live in the Light!

Glory to God #749

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount

arr. Joseph M. Martin

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Images of the Day: George Garawun (Djinang [Aboriginal Australian], 1945–1993), Calling the Disciples, natural earth pigments on eucalyptus bark, Maningrida Church, Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia. Fish: Creative Commons.

Today's Flowers are given by Holly Williams.

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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*
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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