



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

February 23, 2025

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

*Celebration No. 1 in G
Celebration No. 3 in F
NDPC Handbell Choir*

Michael R. Keller

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlotte Stone, liturgist

At the feet of Jesus

Forgiveness was found.

In the heart of Jesus

forgiveness is found.

Sought and given

Free and knowing no limit

forgiveness is here.

* OPENING SONG

All Creatures of Our God and King

Glory to God #15

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

LITANY FOR SCOUTING

Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, once said, "There is no religious side to the movement; the whole of it is based on religion, that is on the realization and service of God." Today scouting is an inclusive program that welcomes all. The values taught through the Scout Law are reflected in the sacred texts of many faiths and are universally recognized as worthy of honor. As we reflect on and consider our ongoing commitment to offer the best of scouting with integrity and compassion let's consider how the Scout Law aligns with the sacred texts of the Old and New Testament.

We share a common calling...

We are called to be trustworthy.

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. – *Luke 16:10*

We are called to be loyal.

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. – *Proverbs 3:3*

We are called to be helpful.

"In everything I have shown you that, by working hard, we must help the weak. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus' words: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" – *Acts 20:35*

We are called to be friendly.

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! – *Psalms 133:1*

We are called to be courteous.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. – *Ephesians 4:29*

We are called to be kind.

"Thus says the Lord of hosts: Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another – *Zechariah 7:9*

We are called to be obedient.

"Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work" – *Titus 3:1*

We are called to be cheerful.

A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. – *Proverbs 15:13*

We are called to be thrifty.

"The wise are cautious and turn away from evil, but the fool throws off restraint and is careless." – *Proverbs 14:16*

We are called to be brave.

"Keep alert; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." – *1 Corinthians 16:13*

We are called to be clean.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from the God of their salvation. – *Psalms 24:3-4*

We are called to be reverent.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. – *Mark 12:30*

Let us live as we are called to live, reflecting God's heart.

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. You are forgiven. I love you. Come and follow me."

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

***GRATEFUL RESPONSE**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God #582

*** 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

A WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Children in 3rd grade and younger may depart to go to Worship & Wonder, or sit with their family.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:36-50, James Leonard, reader

SERMON

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

John the Revelator

Traditional Gospel Blues
arr. Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

O tell me, who's that writin'?
John the Revelator!
[repeat...]
writin' in the book of the seven seals!

O tell me, who's that writin'?
'Bout the Revelation!
[repeat...]
writin' in the book of the seven seals.

When John looked over on Calvary's hill,
heard a rumblin' like a chariot wheel.
Well, tell us, John, what did you see?
I saw a beast rising from the sea!

O tell me, who's that writin'?
John the Revelator!
[repeat...]
John the Revelator,
writin' in the book of the seven seals!

O tell me what is he writin'?
'Bout the Revelation!

[repeat...]
writin' in the book of the seven seals!

Talk to us, John! What's the good news?
The crippled can walk, the dumb are singin'
the blues!

O John, in the graveyard, what do you see?
The dead are dancin' all around me!

Tell us: who is writin'?
Tell us: what is he writin'?
Tell us: why he's writin'?

Time for revelation and for jubilation!
Tell us what you're writin' – read it to us,
John!

Well, just tell it in your book, John!
Well, just tell it in your precious book.
John, just write it down for us in that book.
Well, just tell it in your precious book.
Well, just tell it in that book of the seven seals,
John!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Chris 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

*Our Change-for-Change contributions in February support **CEDEPCA**. The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) is an educational institution that contributes to the transformation of lives and contexts by providing training and accompaniment, and by offering spaces for reflection to women and men from diverse Christian traditions, communities and contexts.*

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

I Come with Joy

Glory to God #515

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Old-Time Religion with Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

arr. Mark Hayes

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Image of the Day: Liz Valente, Brokenhearted: <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente>. Scout: Boy Scouts Blessing a Meal, Norman Rockwell.

Today's choral offering, "John the Revelator" is a song with roots in African-American call-and-response singing and the Delta Blues tradition that arose in the early 1900s. It gives us a celebratory view of the Book of Revelation – the last book of the Bible – inviting us to eagerly anticipate the coming of the new heaven and new earth (see Revelation 21:1-5).

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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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