



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

March 16, 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

Thy Word
Sanctuary
NDPC Youth Band

M. Smith & A. Grant
J. Thompson & R. Scruggs

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Gifford, liturgist

When the world was young
at that first sunrise
and the new light
held a promise
of new days
and fresh mornings
The Word spoke...

...When the Word spoke
and creation sparked
and the alleluias unfolded
the dawn was set free...

...When the dawn was set free
the trees clapped hands
and mountains bowed
and the birds sang a new song
fresh every morning...

...Fresh every morning
the day holds a hope
that this day is God's
and this day holds the promise
and this day is a new beginning.

* OPENING SONG

For the Beauty of the Earth

Glory to God #14

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

Southern trees bearing a strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root
Black bodies swinging in the Southern breeze
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant South
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth
Scent of magnolia sweet and fresh
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh.

Here is a fruit for the crow to pluck
For the rain to wither, for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop
Here is a strange and bitter crop.

-Strange Fruit, by Abel Meeropol (1937)

SILENCE

How is God speaking to you in these words?

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Listen to the words of Jesus, words that we can trust:
"Forgive them, they do not know what they do."

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

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight

Glory to God #817

* 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 3rd grade and below may leave to go to Worship & Wonder or remain in the pew

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 21:1-14

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Dr. Lamma Mansour

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Pie Jesu
NDPC Community Choir
Alejandra Sandoval, soprano soloist

John Rutter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel

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 March support **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%), promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (32%), and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%). All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.*

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

Day of Arising

Glory to God #252

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reclamation

J. Brahms / H. Mai

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Participating in Worship:

Dr. Lamma Mansour, a Christian Palestinian from Nazareth, holds a DPhil and MPhil in Social Policy and Intervention from the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. She also earned a BSc in Psychology from the University of Haifa. Her research, which centers on young people in Israel-Palestine, has been featured in leading academic journals. In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. Mansour actively serves in her local church in Nazareth and contributes to conversations on the intersection of faith and society through various local and global platforms as a writer and speaker.

Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel was the Founder and Executive Director of the Atlanta Ministry with International Students, a ministry of hospitality for young people who have come to Atlanta to study. He was born in Kafr Yasif, in the Galilee, of Christian Palestinian parents. A graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, Fahed was ordained in 1978 and has served the Presbyterian Church in numerous capacities including being elected as the Moderator of its 214th General Assembly, the first Arab-American to lead a major U.S. denomination.

About the Artwork: The silhouettes flanking the sanctuary this season were designed with the help of NDPC community members whose bodies were traced and cut from recyclable cardboard, common stuff of our everyday lives. They call us to consider all manner of God's embodiment in the world and ponder the ways each of us uniquely created to use our hearts and hands, heads and feet to embody God's call.

On the vertical banner in the narthex, a collection of words of focus that were gathered from the congregation on Epiphany Sunday are displayed. These intentions foreground the liturgical calendar that guides us through the church year. In this season of Lent, the banner reminds of the direction where our inner compass asks us to set our face toward Love.

Images of the Day: Mediation: *The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Montgomery, Alabama. Human Pictures/Equal Justice Initiative.* Charles White (American, 1918–1979), *Mother Courage II*, 1974. Oil on canvas, 49 3/4 × 39 7/8 in. National Academy of Design, New York.

Today's choral offering is a gem from the English Reformation in the 1500s. During the reign of King Edward VI (1547-1553), church composers who had previously written vocal music in Latin were required to use English texts and to write in a "simple style". Thomas Tallis, a prominent musician of the Chapel Royal at the time, was among the first to write sacred music in English. This piece is a setting of Jesus' words of reassurance to his frightened disciples at the Last Supper (John 14:15-27).

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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*
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