



**NORTH  
DECATUR  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

John Rutter

NDPC Community Choir  
Alejandra Sandoval, soprano soloist

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 214<sup>th</sup> 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).

**Music & Lyrics** are printed/streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-719269 and CCLI #21115205 & 21115212; CCS PERFORMANCE & WORSHIPcast License #14957

**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*

Carolyn Mielle, *Music Fellow*

Christopher Ng, *Ministry Fellow*

**CONTACT NDPC:** Office Phone: 404-636-1429; Office Email: [office@ndpc.org](mailto:office@ndpc.org)