



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 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

Be Thou My Vision

Glory to God #450

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Wendy Tomlinson, liturgist

O God,
we gather today,
we come we are:
we are lost,
waiting to be found,
we are searching,
hoping to rejoice.

Accept all we bring before you today—

our truths, our doubts, our weary, wondering spirits.

We bring all that we have, and all that we are, to worship you.

* OPENING SONG

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Glory to God #187

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

The art of losing isn't hard to master;
so many things seem filled with the intent
to be lost that their loss is no disaster.

Lose something every day. Accept the fluster
of lost door keys, the hour badly spent.
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

Then practice losing farther, losing faster:
places, and names, and where it was you meant
to travel. None of these will bring disaster.

I lost my mother's watch. And look! my last, or
next-to-last, of three loved houses went.
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

I lost two cities, lovely ones. And, vaster,
some realms I owned, two rivers, a continent.
I miss them, but it wasn't a disaster.

—Even losing you (the joking voice, a gesture
I love) I shan't have lied. It's evident
the art of losing's not too hard to master
though it may look like (*Write it!*) like disaster.

- Elizabeth Bishop, "One Art" from *The Complete Poems 1926-1979*. © 1979.

SILENCE

How is God 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

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 OF ALL AGES

SCRIPTURE

The Good Shepherd

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Rev. Dr. Erin Reed Cooper

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

The Lord Is My Shepherd
NDPC Community Choir

J. Rutter

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture,
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul,
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For thou art with me:
Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our [Divine Parent] in heaven, holy is your name, your kingdom 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 kingdom, 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

Seek Ye First

Glory to God #175

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Traditional English

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

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: *The Good Shepherd* fresco in the Catacombs of Priscilla in Rome (c. 225CE); for meditation: *lost*, by Holger Dankelmann, flickr, creative commons;

Today's choral offering is from John Rutter's Requiem, written in 1985 and dedicated to his father, who died the previous year. The unusual English rendering is from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, much of which is still in use by the Church of England and other Anglicans around the world.

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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 you've joined us! It takes courage to show up at a new church. Introduce yourself to those around you as you feel comfortable. If you share your email address in the red Welcome Pad, we will send you the weekly NDPC e-newsletter. Learn more about NDPC at www.ndpc.org. We come from different backgrounds, traditions, and cultures to worship, so please 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. Ready to join NDPC? Email engagement@ndpc.org.

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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Huu Mai, *Music Director*

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