



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

We welcome all.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 9, 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

Amazing Grace

J. Newton / arr. C. Tomlin

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Tucker Schoeneberg, liturgist

Holy One,
we gather this day,
we come as we are
seeking to be your people,
seeking to serve others in your name.
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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Glory to God #475

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

a man who had fallen among thieves
lay by the roadside on his back
dressed in fifteenthrate ideas
wearing a round jeer for a hat

fate per a somewhat more than less
emancipated evening
had in return for consciousness
endowed him with a changeless grin

whereon a dozen staunch and leal
citizens did graze at pause
then fired by hypercivic zeal
sought newer pastures or because

swaddled with a frozen brook
of pinkest vomit out of eyes
which noticed nobody he looked
as if he did not care to rise

one hand did nothing on the vest
its wideflung friend clenched weakly dirt
while the mute trouserfly confessed
a button solemnly inert.

Brushing from whom the stiffened puke
i put him all into my arms
and staggered banged with terror through
a million billion trillion stars

-a man who had fallen among thieves, by e.e. cummings (1915)

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

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37

SERMON

What is a Body For? *A Body Shows Mercy*

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me
NDPC Community Choir

Thomas Tallis, 1548

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray to heaven,
and God shall give you another comforter,
that grace may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elder Susan Henschen

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

Lean On Me

Bill Withers

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Elegy

Edvard Grieg

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.

Image of the Day: Rembrandt van Rijn, The Good Samaritan, etching (1633); Vincent Van Gogh, The Good Samaritan, oil on canvas, 1890.

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*

Javier Sanchez, *Custodian*

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