



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

May 18, 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

God Welcomes All

Glory to God #399

CHIMES

SILENT PRAYER

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 126 (The Message)
Marie Hodgman Schoeneberg, liturgist

It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
when God returned Zion's exiles.

**We laughed, we sang,
we couldn't believe our good fortune.**

We were the talk of the nations—
"God was wonderful to them!"

**God was wonderful to us;
we are one happy people.**

And now, God, do it again—
bring rains to our drought-stricken lives

**So those who planted their crops in despair
will shout "Yes!" at the harvest,**

So those who went off with heavy hearts
will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.

* OPENING SONG

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Glory to God #744

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

God's editors erased what they thought not right:
the lighter side of Christ, how Jesus laughed,
delighted, pierced with irony, surprised.

A child's first word could have done it;
or the feel of water firm beneath his feet;
or Pilate's simple question "What is truth?"

I believe he caught his sandal on a root; that he shook his head, chuckling at himself,
humbled, but renewed; that it was men

who could not quite handle what it meant: Christ,
blessed by a great joke, going to his knees,
saying "mercy," saying "please."

The Foolishness of God Is Wiser than Men,
By Judson Mitcham, Poetry Magazine, Ma 1994.

SILENCE

How is God speaking to you in these words?

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

In the face of a culture of death
a world of killing fields
a world of the walking dead
Christ is at the head of the resurrection parade
transforming our tears of betrayal into tears of joy
giving us dancing shoes for the resurrection party

And this glittering joker
who has danced in the dragon's jaws of death
**now dances with a dance that is full
of nothing less than the fullness of God**

this is the dance of the new creation
this is the dance of life out of death

and in this dance all that was broken
all that was estranged
all that was alienated
all that was dislocated and disconnected
is reconciled

comes home

is healed

and is made whole

-by Jonny Baker

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Siyahamba

Glory to God #853

* 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

WORD IN WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Children (Pre-K – 3rd grade) are invited to go to Worship & Wonder in the 2nd floor Education Hall. They can be picked up there by a parent after worship.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

The Call
Huu Mai, baritone

Ralph Vaughan Williams

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

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 May supports the **National Alliance on Mental Illness**. The Peace & Justice Committee has supported NAMI and participated in the annual walkathon for many years. Our church has many members in the Mental Health profession and by donating to NAMI we indirectly acknowledge their magnanimous service. Our church also has many members who receive mental health care; we pray for patients and families experiencing mental health challenges. For more information please visit namiga.org.*



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 the healing of the world in the name of God.

* CLOSING SONG

We All Are One in Mission

Glory to God #733

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Song of Simeon

American Folk Tune

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Images of the Day: *Jesus Christ, Liberator*, by Willis Wheatley. 1973. *Buddy Christ*, from the movie, *Dogma*.

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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. For PreK – 3rd grade, Worship & Wonder is our child-centered worship; kids go to W&W right after the children's message and are picked up by parents in the W&W room (2nd floor, Ed. Building) after worship. Kids who stay with their adult for worship 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 enjoyed there or 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 volunteer to serve as an usher or liturgist, donate flowers, 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 and Mary Anona Stoops are available to meet for pastoral care. Pastoral care is confidential and can be held in-person or virtually. Email david@ndpc.org or maryanona@ndpc.org.

NDPC STAFF

Rev. David Lewicki, *Pastor*

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, *Pastor*

Huu Mai, *Music Director*

Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*

Javier Sanchez, *Custodian*

Jerel Jefferson, *Music Fellow*

Carolyn Mielle, *Music Fellow*

CONTACT NDPC: Office Phone: 404-636-1429; Office Email: office@ndpc.org