



*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

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

August 24, 2025

10:00 AM

*An \* means we rise together in body or spirit; **bold text** words are spoken in unison.*

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### PREPARATION & ADORATION

GATHERING SONG

*Touch the Earth Lightly*

Glory to God #713

CHIMES & SILENT PRAYER

*We enter God's presence in silence. God bids us "welcome."*

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, loving God,  
**all creation calls you blessed,**  
and so do we,  
**and so do we.**

Loving God,  
**all your creation calls you blessed.**  
Your spirit imprints the whole universe with life and mystery.  
Yes, all creation proclaims your love.  
**We join this chorus of praise.**

Loving God, as you lure the whole world into salvation,  
**guide us with your Spirit**  
that we might not be only pilgrims on the earth,  
**but pilgrims with the earth,**  
**journeying home to you.**

Loving God, loving God,  
**all of nature calls you blessed,**  
and so do we,  
**and so do we.**

\* OPENING SONG

*The Earth Belongs to God Alone*

Glory to God #715

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## MEDITATION

I said I will find what is lowly  
and put the roots of my identity  
down there:  
each day I'll wake up  
and find the lowly nearby,  
a handy focus and reminder,  
a ready measure of my significance,  
the voice by which I would be heard,  
the wills, the kinds of selfishness  
I could  
freely adopt as my own:

but though I have looked everywhere,  
I can find nothing  
to give myself to:  
everything is

magnificent with existence, is in  
surfeit of glory:  
nothing is diminished,  
nothing has been diminished for me:

I said what is more lowly than the grass:  
ah, underneath,  
a ground-crust of dry-burnt moss:  
I looked at it closely

and said this can be my habitat: but  
nestling in I  
found  
below the brown exterior  
green mechanisms beyond the intellect  
awaiting resurrection in rain: so I got up  
and ran saying there is nothing lowly in the  
universe:

I found a beggar:  
he had stumps for legs: nobody was paying  
him any attention: everybody went on by:  
I nestled in and found his life:  
there, love shook his body like a devastation:  
I said  
though I have looked everywhere  
I can find nothing lowly  
in the universe:

I whirled through transfigurations up and down,  
transfigurations of size and shape and place:

at one sudden point came still,  
stood in wonder:  
moss, beggar, weed, tick, pine, self, magnificent  
with being!

-Still, by A.R. Ammons, *The Selected Poems: 1951-1977*, © 1986

## SILENCE

*How is God speaking to you in these words?*

## RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

### \*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Friends, hear and receive the good news for today: desire first and foremost God's kin-dom and God's righteousness; and everything you need will be yours.

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

### \*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

*Seek Ye First*

Glory to God #175

### \* PASSING THE PEACE

*Share a sign of peace with the Beloveds of God who are seated near you. Children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and younger are invited to leave for Worship & Wonder, followed by playtime. Parents can pick up children on the playground after worship. Children may also stay in worship. There are worship activities in the Narthex that they can bring back to their seat, or enjoy worship in the Narthex with an adult.*

## PROCLAMATION

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:18-25

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of

God, <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For by hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

*Creation*

Rev. David Lewicki

### DEDICATION

ANTHEM

*Like the Beat of a Drum*  
NDPC Summer Singers  
Lisa Bily, djembe

Jay Althouse

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

*(use these or the words closest to your heart)*

**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. Amen.**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*Your Change for Change gifts support NDPC's partnerships with organizations that provide support to immigrants and refugees: El Refugio, Casa Alterna, and PCUSA immigrant church partners.*

**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.



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*We are excited to receive volunteers for our 2025-26 Children, Youth, and Family ministry programs, including Sunday School teachers and youth group leaders. Please use the QR code to link to a volunteer interest form. This is one way you fulfill your baptismal promise to nurture our young people in the Christian faith. Thank you!*



\* CLOSING SONG

*Let All Things Now Living*

Glory to God #37

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Take Time to Be Holy*

G. Stebbins, arr. C. Callahan

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## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Today's Images in Worship:** Image of the Day: Lê Phổ (Vietnamese, 1907–2001), *Composition*, 1969.

Oil on canvas; Meditation: *Moss and Light*, by Natalie T. (flickr, creative commons)

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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](http://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](mailto: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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Worship & Wonder is our child-centered worship; kids go to W&W right after the passing of the peace and are picked up by parents on the playground 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](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 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](mailto:david@ndpc.org) or [maryanona@ndpc.org](mailto:maryanona@ndpc.org).

## NDPC STAFF

Rev. David Lewicki, *Pastor*  
Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, *Pastor*  
Kristin Hicks, *Children, Youth, & Families*  
Huu Mai, *Music Director*

Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*  
Javier Sanchez, *Custodian*  
Jerel Jefferson, *Music Fellow*  
Carolyn Mielke, *Music Fellow*

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