



*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 31, 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

*Shall We Gather at the River*

Glory to God #375

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHIMES & SILENT PRAYER

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come in worship to God

**In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world**

We come to God, who comes to us in Jesus

**And who knows by experience what human life is like**

We come with faith and with our doubts

**We come with our hopes and with our fears**

We come as we are, because it is God who invites us to come

**And God has promised never to turn us away**

\* OPENING SONG

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

Glory to God #792

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 4 HORSEMEN

PRAYERS OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

We are here, God

We have felt your touch in the sun that filters through the trees and onto our faces

Felt your power in breaking of the ocean's salt waves.

We have wondered at your mystery in the stars

And we marvel that the maker of the universe knows us by name

**We are here to praise and worship you**

We are here, Jesus

We know that you came to find us,

We have listened to your words  
And smiled at your stories.  
We have felt the warmth of your love,  
And we thank you that you have called us friends.

**We are here to praise and worship you**

We are here, Holy Spirit  
We are grateful for your presence  
Grateful for the way you bring us close—  
For the way you comfort and challenge us  
And keep us right.

**We are here to praise and worship you**

We are here, God  
In this moment, in this place  
And we thank you that you are here with us.

You know us, God  
We do not have to pretend with you.

**In the silence of your love,  
We bring you the things that trouble us  
The small worries that occupy large places in our lives  
We confess to you our faults and our failings  
The things we have said that have hurt  
The things we have not said that would have helped  
We confess we are self-centered  
How we have assumed that the most important thing is our needs and not the needs of others  
We have stood in judgment when that is your job  
We bring you our wounds  
The things that make us feel ashamed or afraid  
Our addictions, our blind spots and biases  
We bring to you the wounds of this world:  
    The captivity of our attention spans  
    Our neglect of the common good  
    Our abandonment of truth  
    Our exploitation of the earth**

We lay all these broken pieces at your feet, O God,  
Because we have nowhere else to put them and they are killing us.

*(Silence)*

God have mercy on us  
**Christ have mercy on us**  
God have mercy on us

*(Silence)*

#### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed away. All things have become new.  
God does not hold our sins against us, but has reconciled us through Christ. Even more than that,  
we are made ministers of reconciliation.

**This is the Gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and free!**

\* 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

From Revelation 21 & 22

Rev. 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

*"See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;[d]  
4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for[e] the first things have passed away."*

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

Rev. 22

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

*Healing*

Rev. David Lewicki

**DEDICATION**

SONG

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Glory to God #469

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

*You are invited to pray for four different categories of people: people of the world known to us because they are in the news, people of the world who are unknown to us, people who are close to you, yourself. Please feel free to write as many prayers as you wish on the magnolia leaves. After each set of prayers, we say:*

God in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

SONG

*Bless the Lord*

Glory to God #544

LITURGY OF ANOINTING

*If you desire, come forward to the chancel area and kneel or stand to receive an anointing on your forehead and a blessing by a worship leader.*

*You are invited to depart in silence or remain seated in your pew in prayer and meditation.*

POSTLUDE

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

J. S. Bach

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## 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 Alternativa, 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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## NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

**Today's Images in Worship:** ?

**Today's Flowers** are given by Charlotte Stone.

**Music & Lyrics** are printed/streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-719269 and CCLI #21115205 & 21115212; CCS PERFORMmusic & 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 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](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).

**Subscribe to our sermon podcast** through any major podcasting service. **Videos of previous worship services** are available at [ndpc.org/worship](http://ndpc.org/worship).

**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, & Family Ministry*

Huu Mai, *Music Director*

Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*

Javier Sanchez, *Custodian*

Jerel Jefferson, *Music Fellow*

Carolyn Mielke, *Music Fellow*

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