



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

November 16, 2025, 11 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

GATHERING SONG *Be Thou My Vision* Glory to God #450

CHIMES & SILENCE *We enter God's presence in silence.*

* CALL TO WORSHIP Sylvia Broome, liturgist
-after Matthew 5

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We are the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

**We will let our light shine before others,
and our shining will give glory to God.**

* 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

Hope is a crushed stalk
Between clenched fingers
Hope is a bird's wing
Broken by a stone.
Hope is a word in a tuneless ditty —
A word whispered with the wind,
A dream of forty acres and a mule,
A cabin of one's own and a moment to rest,
A name and place for one's children
And children's children at last . . .
Hope is a song in a weary throat.
Give me a song of hope
And a world where I can sing it.
Give me a song of faith
And a people to believe in it.
Give me a song of kindness
And a country where I can live it.
Give me a song of hope and love
And a brown girl's heart to hear it.

Pauli Murray, *Dark Testament*, Verse 8

SILENCE

How is God speaking to you in these words?

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloveds, we have been created in love,

We were created to be compassionate with our own bodies and with one another's.

Do not let the sin of deception convince you that you were created for anything less.

We live as people who have died and been brought back to life

Trust that the God of the resurrection is the same God who lifts us up each and every day, holding us individually and collectively.

We are forgiven, we are loved, and we are free.

* GRATEFUL RESPONSE

We Are Marching in the Light of God

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 4 yrs. through 2nd grade are invited to leave now with leaders for our child-centered Worship & Wonder time; they may be picked up in the Worship & Wonder room after service. Children may also remain with their family; they may utilize our worship bags located in the Narthex or go out at anytime to visit the Children's Corner in the narthex to find a quiet activity.

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:1-7

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort
NDPC Community Choir

J. Olearius, arr. J. Ferguson

“Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim
that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over,
God will reign in peace forever!”

For the herald’s voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God’s word is never broken.
NDPC Community Choir

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

The Change-for-Change offering in November supports the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry (DEAM) and the Toco Hills Community Alliance. DEAM and THCA are our community’s two providers of emergency food assistance. Learn more at www.deamdecatur.org and www.tocohillsalliance.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.



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.

* CLOSING SONG

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Glory to God #611

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross, III. Toccata

S. Nicholson

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: Judith Tutin (Irish, 1979–), *Breaking*, 2011. Diptych, St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland. Meditation: *Rally as part of Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31, 2023, near the Capitol in Washington* (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin).

Today's flowers are provided by the Worship Committee.

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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 – 2nd 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.

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*
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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