



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 23, 2025, 11 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

GATHERING SONG

Praise, I Will Praise You, God

Glory to God #628

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Carter Broome, liturgist;
by Henrietta Stith Andrews

A word of encouragement came from prophet to people;
Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, multiply--

Pray for your communities

Keep God in the center of all that is.

We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts

For something happens here

that reminds us that we can live as God desires

God has made a promise of faithfulness to us

and we can trust the promise.

* OPENING SONG

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Glory to God #267

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark. You only run for the border when you see the whole city running as well, your neighbors running faster than you. The boy you went to school with, who kissed you dizzy behind the old tin factory, is holding a gun bigger than his body. You only leave home when home won't let you stay.

No one would leave home unless home chased you, fire under feet, hot blood in your belly. It's not something you ever thought about doing, so when you did, you carried the anthem under your breath, waiting until the airport toilet to tear up the passport and swallow, each mournful mouthful making it clear you would not be going back.

You have to understand, no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land. Who would choose days and nights in the stomach of a truck, unless the miles travelled meant something more than journey.

No one would choose to crawl under fences, beaten until your shadow leaves you, ...forced off the boat because you are darker, drowned, sold, starved, shot at the border like a sick animal, be pitied, lose your name, lose your family, make a refugee camp home for a year or two or ten, stripped and searched, finding prison everywhere. And if you were to survive, greeted on the other side with *Go home Blacks, dirty refugees, sucking our country dry of milk, dark with their hands out, smell strange, savage, look what they've done to their own countries, what will they do to ours?*

The dirty looks in the streets softer than a limb torn off..., insults easier to swallow than finding your child's body in the rubble.

I want to go home, but home is the mouth of a shark. Home is the barrel of a gun. No one would leave home unless home chased you to the shore. No leaves home until home is a voice in your ear saying—*leave, run, now. I don't know what I've become.*

Warsan Shire, "Home," from *Bless the Daughter Raised by a Voice in Her Head*

SILENCE

How is God speaking to you in these words?

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"You shall not wrong or oppress the foreigners in your land, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt."

We welcome the stranger, because we, too, have been strangers.

We have all been wandering, lost in a far country,

but it is God, by grace, who leads us home.

In Christ, we are welcomed, forgiven, loved, and free.

* GRATEFUL RESPONSE

We Are Marching in the Light of God
NDPC Children's Choir

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 use our worship bags located in the Narthex or go out at any time to visit the Children's Corner in the narthex to find a quiet activity.

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

City Called Heaven Traditional, arr. by Josephine Poelintz
 NDPC Community Choir
 Jerel Jefferson, soloist

I am a pilgrim, a poor pilgrim of sorrow,
 I'm left in this wide world, this wide world alone!
 Ain't got no hope, got no hope for tomorrow –
 I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home.

Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord!
 Sometimes I just don't know which way to turn.
 Oh I heard of a city, of a city called heaven.
 I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home.

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
(use these or the words closest to your heart)

Elder Susan Castle

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

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

Glory to God #331

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Grand Offertory in G

Lefébure - Wély

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: *One (Guerrilla Tea)*, by Pierre Sernet. From 2001 to 2008, artist Pierre Sernet traveled to over thirty countries to spontaneously enact abbreviated Japanese tea ceremonies, inviting passersby to come sit and drink the cup of matcha he prepared in front of them. *Meditation: Migrants arrive by a Turkish boat near the village of Skala, on the Greek island of Lesbos (Nov. 16, 2015)*, by Sergey Ponomarev for The New York Times.

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*

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Mahsheed Khawary, *Office Administrator*

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