



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

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

11:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

PRELUDE

Canticle of Joy
NDPC Handbell Choir

by Dan R. Edwards

WELCOME

Rev. David Lewicki

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today, all creation holds its breath.

We open our hearts to the love that longs to be born.

We wait with all of creation.

We wait for Christ, the Word made flesh.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (1st verse)

Glory to God #88

In the stillness of this day, the Word becomes flesh—

not far off, but here:

in the light of fire,

in the movement of air,

in the refreshment of water,

in the sureness of earth.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (2nd verse)

All around us Christ comes—

not far off, but here in us:

in the rhythms of our own bodies,

in the offering of our humble worship

in the labor of a parent's love,

in the fragility of a newborn's cry.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
(6th verse, choir; rise for the 7th verse, all singing)

PROCLAMATION

FIRST READING

Luke 2:1-8

In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own

towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the inn.

SONG

What Sweeter Music
NDPC Community Choir

Words by Robert Herrick,
Music by John Rutter

MEDITATION

God-with-us. Emmanuel.
Born into the dust we walk,
the breath we share,
the tears we carry,
the flames of hope we tend.
Beloved community—
you who traveled far,
you who barely made it here,
you who long for wonder,
you who hope for peace.

We gather today as those yearning for the light.

We come to receive the angels' news:

"Do not be afraid, Love is born this day."

SILENCE & CHIME

SECOND READING

-Luke 2:8-15

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

* SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

Glory to God #113

MEDITATION

The news comes first to those
who keep watch in the fields,
to those surrounded by sheep and starlight,
to those the world forgets.
We, too, hurry toward the mystery,
seeking the One the angels proclaim.

We feel the tug of urgency—

to rise from where we are,

to go and see this Love

born in a place so ordinary

it startles the heart awake.

SILENCE & CHIME

THIRD READING

Luke 2:16-20

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

SONG

O Magnum Mysterium
NDPC Community Choir

by Morten Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
iacentem in praeseptio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Iesum Christum.
Alleluia!

O great mystery,
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to carry
the Lord Jesus Christ!
Alleluia!

HOMILY

Rev. David Lewicki

VISUAL MEDITATION

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & INVITATION TO SHARE THE LIGHT

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

At the invitation of the pastor, come forward by the center aisle to light your candle from the Christ candle. Once your candle is lit, move toward the side aisles to form one large circle around the exterior of the room.

CANDLELIGHT SONG

O Holy Night
Marielle Mai, soloist

Words by John Sullivan Dwight
Music by Adolphe Adam

MEDITATION

On this holy day,
creation itself lifts its voice in praise.

Earth steadies beneath us, ready to rejoice;
waters shimmer with gladness;
air carries the songs of angels;
fire dances with the warmth of new hope.

With fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
we repeat the sounding joy.

**All creation joins the chorus—
for Christ is born, and the whole earth sings.**

* CLOSING SONG

Joy to the World

Glory to God #134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

* BENEDICTION

At the conclusion of worship, please extinguish your candle and bring it to a collection basket near the door as you leave. Merry Christmas!

POSTLUDE

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's flowers are provided by the Worship Committee.

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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Children are welcome in worship at NDPC. Kids 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.

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*

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