



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

December 14, 2025, 11AM

Third Sunday of Advent

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

About the Artwork: Crafted by the Many Hands Liturgical Arts Group, our Advent paraments honor the sacred presence of fire, air, water, and earth in the stories of our faith. Each element on the communion tablecloth is expressed within a diamond shape that echoes the visual architecture of the chancel, creating a dialogue between the art and the worship space. The pulpit cloth gathers the colors and textures of the four elements into a star, extending the visual language of the diamonds and evoking the light we await in this season. Pieced and sewn by members and friends of NDPC, the work reflects the diversity and unity of our community in and beyond the church, offering a visual reminder of God's creative energy moving through all creation.

PREPARATION & ADORATION

GATHERING SONG

Oceans
NDPC Youth Band

M. Crocker, J. Houston & S. Ligthelm

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Cribbs, liturgist

There are many words used in the world to
get our attention:

headlines,
"tweets" and "truths,"
propaganda,
sales pitches.

But what words hold an invitation
that offers a way into the future
that is hopeful, generous and just?

Hear words from Isaiah
that quietly echo the ancient song
of Creation itself,

words that our spirits long to hear:

'You shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song.'

* OPENING SONG

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

Glory to God #77

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

VISUAL MEDITATION

Water

MEDITATION

With what deep murmurs through time's
 silent stealth
Doth thy transparent, cool, and wat'ry wealth
Here flowing fall,
And chide, and call,
As if his liquid, loose retinue stay'd
Ling'ring, and were of this steep place afraid;
The common pass
Where, clear as glass,
All must descend
Not to an end,
But quicken'd by this deep and rocky grave,
Rise to a longer course more bright and
 brave.

Dear stream! dear bank, where often I
Have sate and pleas'd my pensive eye,
Why, since each drop of thy quick store
Runs thither whence it flow'd before,
Should poor souls fear a shade or night,
Who came, sure, from a sea of light?
Or since those drops are all sent back

So sure to thee, that none doth lack,
Why should frail flesh doubt any more
That what God takes, he'll not restore?

O useful element and clear!
My sacred wash and cleanser here,
My first consigner unto those
Fountains of life where the Lamb goes!
What sublime truths and wholesome themes
Lodge in thy mystical deep streams!
Such as dull man can never find
Unless that Spirit lead his mind
Which first upon thy face did move,
And hatch'd all with his quick'ning love.
As this loud brook's incessant fall
In streaming rings restagnates all,
Which reach by course the bank, and then
Are no more seen, just so pass men.
O my invisible estate,
My glorious liberty, still late!
Thou art the channel my soul seeks,
Not this with cataracts and creeks.

The Water-fall, by Henry Vaughn (Welsh, 17th century)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Jill Jacques and Pam Joyce

God, we thank you and give you praise for Water.
We witness water's power to shape earth's canyons and coastlines.
Water surrounds us with safety in our mother's womb.
Water blesses the earth
Making the desert bloom and quenching our thirst.
She cleanses and refreshes, washing over our bodies.
Water awes us with her beauty
As waves crash against rocks or gently roll onto the shore,
As she cascades down a waterfall
Or shrouds a valley in an early morning mist.
God, we thank you and give you praise for Water.

*** God, we search for you in the wonders of your creation—
sun and moon, stars and sky, earth and air,
fire and water, north and south, east and west.**

**We eagerly await your arrival.
At your coming, the whole creation rejoices!**

* GRATEFUL RESPONSE

Wade in the Water

Traditional

* 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

Isaiah 55

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Glow
NDPC Community Choir

Eric Whitacre

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER
(use these or the words closest to your heart)

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

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

The Change-for-Change offering in December supports the NDPC Pastors' Discretionary Fund. This fund supports members of the congregation and community experiencing financial emergencies. The fund pays for housing, food, healthcare, and other life-giving support for people in crisis.

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.



* CLOSING SONG

Come Now to the Water

Glory to God #479

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

G. Holst, arr. M. Hayes

NDPC'S ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Would you like to receive NDPC's Advent Devotional delivered to your email inbox each day? Use the QR code here to register, and we'll include you on the email list.



NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: *Waterfall*, Lake District, UK (2023), by David Lewicki; *Waterfall* (2016), by Hiroshi Senju acrylic and fluorescent pigments on Japanese mulberry paper; *Wall of Water II* (2011), by Maggi Hambling, oil on canvas.

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. 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*
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