



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 21, 2025, 11AM

Fourth 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

PRELUDE

Canterbury Chimes
NDPC Handbell Choir

Douglas E. Wagner

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Tveit, liturgist
by Catherine deVinck

Listen!

Something strains to be born
to shake itself free:

**something brand new trembles
at the far edge of our minds:
the shape of a world to come
conceived in our present labor and pain.**

* OPENING SONG

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Glory to God #20

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

VISUAL MEDITATION

Earth

MEDITATION

This is good soil; begetter of tall grain,
Blackberry, sloe, rough bramble from the rock,
Barley and stinging rye, cool mullein, dock,
Heartsease and cornflower under the sounding rain;
The sensitive corn, root-tip and sworded leaf,
In misty shafts of green leaning to the drip
Of gold rain-music slow and sweet, the grip
Of bean-vine over its heart; the gorgeous brief
Miracle of grass...

This is good soil:
Out of this earth life blooms a day, a year;
Into this earth life goes — the dark loam, dear
Cozener of flesh! the breaker of long toil!
Meal of marl, warm shelly sand, and stone:
This is good soil... to cover the taken bone.

by Verne Bright, Poetry Magazine (Jan. 1936)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Becky and David Evans

God, we thank you and give you praise for Earth.
Our feet tread an almost imperceptible path
Across Earth's valleys, mountains, pastures, deserts and woodlands.
Earth sustains our life with the abundance of her harvests.
She shapes us and forms us from the very elements of herself.
Earth knows her great power,
From deep within her molten core,
Reshaping, reforming and renewing herself.
Earth cradles us on our journey
And enfolds us when the journey is complete.
God, we thank you and give you praise for Earth.

* **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

While We Are Waiting Come
NDPC Children's Choir

Glory to God #92

* 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

John 1

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Gesù Bambino
Elsa Cayce, soprano

Pietro A. Yon

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

Min-Jae Cho, ministry fellow

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

Christ Is Coming!

Glory to God #360

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

This Christmastide

Donald Fraser

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: *Prairie*, by Herman Layos, flickr: creative commons. *Earth Rite*, by Holly Slingsby, performance at St Pancras Church, London, July 6, 2024, Photo by Adam Papaphilippopoulos. *God has fingerprints!* 3,1415926535879323846264338327 (2020), by Borys Fiodorowicz.

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*

Carolyn Mielke, *Music Fellow*

Min-Jae Cho, *Ministry Fellow*

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