



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 28, 2025, 11AM

Christmas Tide

*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

Mendelssohn Songs Without Words Op. 30 No. 3
Brandon Lau

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Carrie Newcomer
Jaime Jones-Wormley, liturgist

It is the season of mercy,
the season of memory,
at the end of December,
at the turn of the year,
when our spirits go quiet
and we turn toward each other
for company and kindness
which is honest and human
and softens the hardest of things.

And perhaps that's the reason we are all here,
to be a safe place to launch
and a soft place to land
and to notice a miracle pushing up through the sidewalk
and to recognize love in all its various and unexpected forms.

* OPENING SONG

What Child is This

Glory to God #145

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

gratitude

not for everything
that has happened
but that I
am still happening
and that I am being
fashioned
into love
by all that has
happened

Gratitude, Drew Jackson

RESPONDING TO THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

At the end of a long journey
for a called people seeking a destiny;
**at the end of an enforced trek
to a highland town with no room for the poor,**
at the end of the hard travail
for a teenage woman sheltering in a shed:
came the unspeakable Gift;
the wondrous self-emptying, the embodied word, the great folly of God;
a baby crying in the night
who frightened jeweled kings and shook the gates of hell.

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

(Love) Came Down

Glory to God #137

* 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.

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:13-23

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Mary Anona Stoops

DEDICATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Coventry Carol

Thomas Keesecker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elder Charlie Cromwell

(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.

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Glory to God #132

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Brianne Lundberg

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: Lone Flower, Stockcake, "Flight into Egypt," accessed from artandtheology.org

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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