



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

LENT

February 22, 2026

11:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

About the Artwork: The Lenten art on the stone walls of the sanctuary and the banner in the narthex reflect the I AM statements of Jesus in John's gospel. Inspired by these claims, each of the large purple panels includes a keyword and collaged photo images, meant both to reflect and challenge our understandings of those claims and their implications for our own ways of living as the people of God. You are invited to step close to each of these pieces in the weeks ahead, and consider: How do the words and images connect for you? Do they surprise you? How do they evoke other ideas about who we are called to be? Thank you to the Many Hands liturgical arts group for their offering as a "visual choir" in this season of Lent.

PRELUDE

Canterbury Chimes
NDPC Handbell Choir

Douglas E. Wagner

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlotte Stone, liturgist

Lent sets us on a path.

We rise to travel it.

The Shepherd goes before us—into sorrow, into beauty, into life.

We will follow in trust.

We are not alone on this road.

We journey together.

Come, let us follow the One who call us by name.

We will follow where we are led.

* OPENING SONG

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (v. 1-3)

Glory to God #803

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

Whenever I spend the day crying,
my friends tell me I look high. Good grief,
they finally understand me.
Even when the arena is empty, I thank god
for the shots I miss. If you ever catch me
only thanking god for the shots I make,
remind me I'm not thanking god. Remind me
all my prayers were answered
the moment I started praying
for what I already have.
Jenny says when people ask if she's out of the
woods,
she tells them she'll never be out of the woods,
says there is something lovely about the
woods.
I know how to build a survival shelter
from fallen tree branches, packed mud,
and pulled moss. I could survive forever
on death alone. Wasn't it death that taught
me
to stop measuring my lifespan by length,

but by width? Do you know how many
beautiful things
can be seen in a single second? How you can
blow up
a second like a balloon and fit infinity inside of
it?
I'm infinite, I know, but I still have a measly
wrinkle
collection compared to my end goal.
I love this life,
I whisper into my doctor's stethoscope
so she can hear my heart. My heart, an
heirloom
I didn't inherit until I thought I could die.
Why did I go so long believing I owed the world
my disappointment? Why did I want to take
the world by storm when I could have taken it
by sunshine, by rosewater, by the cactus
flowers
on the side of the road where I broke down?
I'm not about to waste more time
spinning stories about how much time I'm
owed...

excerpted from *In the chemo room, I wear mittens made of ice so I don't lose my fingernails.*
But I took a risk today to write this down.

By Andrea Gibson, from *Poem-a-Day*, American Academy of Poets (2023)

SILENT REFLECTION ON THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Even now—
This small, passing moment—

God is here.

Grace softens what feels unbearable.
Love stretches the present
Until it can hold more than we imagined.

Nothing is outside of Love. Nothing is beyond grace.

In Christ we are forgiven, loved, and freed.

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me (v. 1-2)

Glory to God #775

* 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 11:1-44

SERMON

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

My Soul Is Anchored in the Lord
NDPC Community Choir

arr. Moses Hogan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR OFFERING

*Our Change-for-Change contributions in February support **CEDEPCA**. The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) is an educational institution that contributes to the transformation of lives and contexts by providing training and accompaniment, and by offering spaces for reflection to women and men from diverse Christian traditions, communities, and contexts. **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

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (v. 1-3)

Glory to God #837

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Land of Rest

arr. Joseph Martin

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: *Shepherd and Sheep*, Anton Mauve; Hands image, NHS England; *Raising Lazarus*, Brian Whelan

Today's flowers are provided by Martha Shepherd.

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 are led by an adult to the W&W room right after the passing of the peace and are picked up there by parents after worship. Kids who remain with their adult for worship are free to move around in the narthex where there are child-friendly quiet activities in the Children's Corner that can be enjoyed there as you listen to worship or taken back to your seat. The presence of children in worship at NDPC 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*

CONTACT NDPC: Office Phone: 404-636-1429; Office Email: office@ndpc.org