



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

March 15, 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.

GATHERING SONG

God Is Here Today

Glory to God #411

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF WAR

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Tveit, liturgist

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power.

Now Compassion is under arrest,
Love stands facing its accusers,
and the Truth is questioned
by those who cling to power.

It is a scandal
through which God's glory is revealed.

Let us worship God.

* OPENING SONG

O for a World

Glory to God #372

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

I don't usually talk to strangers, but it is four o'clock and I can't get a cab. I need a cab because I have packages, but it's four o'clock and all the cabs are off duty. They are making a shift change. At the bus stop I say, It's hard to get a cab now. The woman standing next to me glances over without turning her head. She faces the street where cab after cab drives by with its light off. She says, as if to anyone, It's hard to live now. I don't respond. Hers is an Operation Iraqi Freedom answer. The war is on and the Department of Homeland Security has decided we have an elevated national-threat level, a code-orange alert. I could say something, but my packages are getting heavier by the minute and besides, what is there to say since rhetorically it's not about our oil under their sand but about freeing Iraqis from Iraqis and Osama is Saddam and Saddam is "that man who tried to kill my father" and the weapons of mass destruction are, well, invisible and Afghanistan is Iraq and Iraq is Syria and we see ourselves only through our own eyes and the British, but not the French, and Germany won't and Turkey won't join us but the coalition is inside Baghdad where the future is the threat the Americans feel they can escape though there is no escaping the Americans because war, this war, is about peace: "The war in Iraq is really about peace. Trying to make the world more peaceful. This victory in Iraq, when it happens, will make the world more peaceful."

-Claudia Rankine, "I don't normally talk to strangers... (p. 113)" from *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*.
Copyright © 2004.

REFLECTION ON THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

You fill us with your Spirit, O God,
**so that we may become more like Christ,
and at the same time more fully ourselves.**
By the grace of the Spirit, we will stand by Jesus.
**Because whatever we do for others,
we do for him.
Amen.**

*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 18:28-40

SERMON

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

"The Road Home"

Stephen Paulus

NDPC Community Choir; Gilliane Conklin, soprano soloist

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,

Through the air there's a calling
From far away.
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

"Rise up, follow me,
Come away," is the call,
"With the love in your heart
As the only song.
There is no such beauty
As where you belong.
Rise up, follow me
I will lead you home."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!**

INVITATION TO FOLLOW JESUS

*Your Change-for-Change contributions in March support **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%), promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (32%), and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%). All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.*

*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

Our Savior, Jesus, Reigns!

Glory to God #363

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

John Hatton, arr. Mark Hayes

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: *Christ before the Judge*, by Cecil Collins (1954–56). *Hailing a Cab*, by Timothy Krause, flickr: Creative Commons; *What is Truth?*, by Nikolai Ge (1890)

Today's flowers are provided by Rusty Godwin.

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 become a member of 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