



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 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.

GATHERING SONG

Were You There

Glory to God #228

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF WAR

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

-after Psalm 146; Erika Meyer, liturgist

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals,
in whom there is no help, said the psalmist.

**Yet you, Jesus, put your very life
into the hands of princes, mortals,
governors, religious authorities.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose help is in God.

**God, you made all that is,
you keep faith forever.**

You execute justice for the oppressed,
give food to the hungry,

**set the prisoners free,
open the eyes of the blind.**

You lift up those who are bowed down,
watch over the strangers,

**uphold the orphan and the widow.
God, you will reign forever.**

* OPENING SONG

O God of Every Nation

Glory to God #756

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

-Gerard Manley Hopkins, "Spring"

REFLECTION ON THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God,
you are merciful and just,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As your mercies are new for us all each morning,
grant us the forgiveness we crave
for the sins we deny,
and raise in us the same joyful newness
that is in this spring day.

*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 19:1-16

SERMON

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Lacrimosa
NDPC Community Choir

W. A. Mozart

Lacrimosa dies illa,
qua resurget ex favilla
judicandus homo reus.
Huic ergo parce, Deus,
pie Jesu Domine,
dona eis requiem. Amen.

That day of tears and mourning,
when from the ashes shall arise,
all humanity to be judged.
Spare us by your mercy, Lord,
gentle Lord Jesus,
grant them eternal rest. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 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

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Glory to God #817

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The God of Abraham Praise

arr. Gordon Young

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: From *You Are a Sacred Place* © by Madeleine Jubilee Saito. Meditation: *Tree with White Flowers*, by Martin LaBar, flickr: Creative Commons.

Today's flowers are provided by Genia Duchon.

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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*

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