



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 8, 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

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Glory to God #469

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF WAR

CHIMES & SILENCE

We enter God's presence in silence.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Cribbs, liturgist

The psalmist writes:

"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me,
hear my words."

**Hear us, Lord, as we gather this day
recognising our desire to serve
and our success in serving
sometimes lie far apart.**

"Wondrously show your steadfast love
O Saviour of those who seek refuge..."

**We seek in your house of prayer
to come closer to you,
in humility and frailty,
that you might gird us
with strength and compassion.**

Let us worship God.

* OPENING SONG

You Are My Refuge, Faithful God

Glory to God #214

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

God's reconciliation in Jesus Christ is the ground of the peace, justice, and freedom among nations which all powers of government are called to serve and defend. The church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace. This search requires that the nations pursue fresh and responsible relations across every line of conflict, even at risk to national security, to reduce areas of strife and to broaden international understanding. Reconciliation among nations becomes peculiarly urgent as countries develop nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, diverting their manpower and resources from constructive uses and risking the annihilation of mankind. Although nations may serve God's purposes in history, the church which identifies the sovereignty of any one nation or any one way of life with the cause of God denies the Lordship of Christ and betrays its calling.

-9.45, The Confession of 1967, *The Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)*

REFLECTION ON THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (Jn. 8:36).

Christ, set us free from guilt and shame for what is past.

**Free us from whatever it is
that makes us most likely to fail again.**

Free us to be who we already are:

**your beloved children,
called into service,**

and enabled by your Spirit
to love faithfully to the end.

*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.

PROCLAMATION

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR ELOISE ZIMBARDI

Charge to the congregation:

Do you as members of this congregation promise to guide and nurture Eloise by your words and your deeds, and with love and prayer, encourage them to discover the Spirit of Christ in their life and to live as a member of the Body of Christ? If so, say "We do."

Closing Prayer:

Eloise, our little sibling in Christ,

With joy we welcome you into the family of Jesus!

What God will make of you, we do not know. Where God will take you, we cannot say.

But walk with us. Share with us in this life of love, compassion, mercy, and peace.

And know this: God is with you always! Amen.

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

John 18:12-27

SERMON

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Libera me
NDPC Community Choir

Gabriel Faure

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elder Susan Henschen

Our [Divine Parent] in heaven, holy is your name, your kingdom 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 kingdom, 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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Glory to God #834

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

George Allen

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: *Memorial for Children Killed in US Bombing*, Stringer / Anadolu via Getty Images. *The Denial of Saint Peter*, by Gerard van Honthorst (c. 1618–20).

Today's flowers are provided by Cindy Hays.

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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*

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Min-Jae Cho, *Ministry Fellow*

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