



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

ORDINARY TIME

June 21, 2026

10:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

* GATHERING MUSIC

Freedom Is Coming

Glory to God #359

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarah Erickson, liturgist

We gather today to worship and to mark Juneteenth—
a day of celebration and a day of reckoning.

**We celebrate freedom announced
and grieve freedom delayed.**

On June 19, 1865, enslaved people in Texas learned
what had been true for two and a half years:
they were legally free.

The gap between proclamation and arrival is not a footnote.

It is the story we are still living.

We worship a god who takes sides with the oppressed,

who proclaims release to the captives,

who calls us to celebrate liberation

and to participate in the liberation of our neighbors.

We are grateful for those who endured.

We confess that we are not yet free.

God, meet us today on freedom's road!

* OPENING SONG

Stand By Me

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

There is no warning rattle at the door
nor heavy feet to stomp the foyer boards.
Safe in the dark prison, I know that
light slides over

the fingered work of a toothless
woman in Pakistan.
Happy prints of
an invisible time are illumined.

My mouth agape
rejects the solid air and
lungs hold. The invader takes
direction and
seeps through the plaster walls.
It is at my chamber, entering
the keyhole, pushing
through the padding of the door.
I cannot scream. A bone
of fear clogs my throat.
It is upon me. It is
sunrise, with Hope
its arrogant rider.
My mind, formerly quiescent
in its snug encasement, is strained
to look upon their rapturous visages,
to let them enter even into me.
I am forced

outside myself to
mount the light and ride joined with Hope.

Through all the bright hours
I cling to expectation, until
darkness comes to reclaim me
as its own. Hope fades, day is gone
into its irredeemable place
and I am thrown back into the familiar
bonds of disconsolation.
Gloom crawls around
lapping lasciviously
between my toes, at my ankles,
and it sucks the strands of my
hair. It forgives my heady
fling with Hope. I am
joined again into its
greedy arms.

-“A Plagued Journey,” by Maya Angelou, from *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?*

RESPONSE TO THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God's grace is not cheap. It is costly,
demanding, and transforming.
Such grace does not let us stay where we are.
Celebrate this assurance:
We are forgiven, we are loved, we are free!
We are called to carry the news that freedom
has arrived for all of God's children! Amen.

*GRATEFUL RESPONSE *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* Glory to God #582

* 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 reflection time; they may be picked up on the playground 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

Mark 12: ²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ **you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Galatians 5: ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**”

SERMON

*The Sermon I Need to Hear:
Loving God & Neighbor in Practice*

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Ride On, King Jesus
NDPC Summer Singers

arr. Joe Cox

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Carol Tveit

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 FOLLOW JESUS

Change-for-Change contributions in June support Decatur Cooperative Ministries. DCM’s mission is to support families facing homelessness settle into safe, stable homes and build healthy lives.

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.



* LITANY OF COMMITMENT

We remember the men, women, and children who were enslaved in this land—who sang spirituals that encoded routes to freedom, who prayed in brush arbors when worship was forbidden, who endured what should never be endured.

We remember. Their witness is our strength.

We remember those who did not survive to hear the news of freedom’s arrival. We remember those who heard the news and were still not free.

We remember. Their witness is our strength.

We celebrate Juneteenth as a day of genuine joy—for freedom that came, for resilience that endure, for a people who built culture and community and beauty out of what was meant to destroy them.

We celebrate. We inherit their joy.

We acknowledge that the freedom Juneteenth proclaims is not yet complete—that racial injustice continues, that the gap between freedom’s proclamation and its arrival has not yet closed.

We acknowledge. And we refuse to look away.

We commit ourselves—as individuals and as a congregation—to the ongoing work of liberation: in our giving, our advocacy, our relationships, and our repentance.

We commit. God, hold us to it.

We go from this place as people sent by a God who proclaims freedom and calls us to deliver it.

Thanks be to our God! Amen.

* CLOSING SONG

This Little Light of Mine

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Storm Is Passing Over

Charles Tindley

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: ?.

Today's Flowers

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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. Curious about becoming a member of NDPC? Send an email to engagement@ndpc.org.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Children are welcome in worship at NDPC. The nursery, located off the hallway just outside the sanctuary, is open for ages 0-3. Kids PreK-2nd grade are welcome to go to the kids' gathering after the passing of the peace or remain with their families in worship. The presence of children here is a gift, never a disruption. Questions about kids and families at NDPC? Email kristin@ndpc.org.

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*

Carolyn Mielke, *Music Fellow*

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