



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

July 19, 2026

10:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

GATHERING MUSIC

I Danced in the Morning

Glory to God #157

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Todaro, liturgist

We praise the God of laughter whose humor sends ripples
through even the river of death.

**You turn a tiny seed into a mighty tree,
and conceal the meaning of life in a loaf of bread.**

You turn my world upside down.

When I get full of myself, you hold up a fun house mirror
that shows me with a tiny neck and a Texas-sized forehead.

Following your Way is also full of surprises:

**the popular routes lead in endless circles,
while the dead-ends have doors.**

If I had a thousand tongues, I couldn't praise you enough,
you, who are invisible like the wind, but solid as the rock.

* OPENING SONG

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Glory to God #267

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

A praising of God is what laughter is, because it lets a human being be human.

Laughter is a praise of God, because it lets a human being be a loving person.

Laughter is praise of God because it is a gentle echo of God's laughter, of the laughter that
pronounces judgment on all history.

Laughter is praise of God because it foretells the eternal praise of God at the end of time, when those
who must weep here on earth shall laugh.

The laughter of unbelief, of despair, and of scorn, and the laughter of believing happiness are here
uncannily juxtaposed, so that before the fulfillment of the promise, one hardly knows whether belief
or unbelief is laughing.

-a found poem by Kathleen Norris, made up of sayings by Karl Rahner,
from *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith* (Riverhead, 1999)

Help me to laugh
with so much heart
I shake the trees
and tremble the quiet
pools. Surprise
the old carp
and warblers
with my joy.
Multiply my delights
till they surround me like an echo
revolving in a gorge.

-by Katherine Mosby, *The Book of Uncommon Prayer* (1996)

RESPONSE TO THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

You know better than we do, Amused God,
what important people we believe we are.

Believing we have to be serious all the time,
we miss out on the joy of your creation.

Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,
we skip the picnic offered in paradise.

Clinging to the despair which is our best friend,
we ignore Jesus, who brings us home to your heart.

Heart of Joy,
make us open to the startling, and upside-down,
ways in which you work.

**Fill us with resurrection laughter;
fill us with healing joy;
fill us with the love poured into us
through Jesus Christ. 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

-various

SERMON

*The Sermon I Need to Hear:
Did Jesus Have a Sense of Humor?*

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

*Let All Things Now Living
NDPC Summer Singers*

Katherine Davis

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. Amen.

INVITATION TO FOLLOW JESUS

Change-for-Change contributions in July support our Back-to-School Drive in partnership with International Community School, Initiative for Affordable Housing, and Memorial Drive Ministries. School supplies are an excessive financial burden for many families in our neighborhood. Our Back-to-School Drive lets kids return to school in August with everything they need to learn without diverting family resources from essential expenses.

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

You Shall Go Out with Joy

Glory to God #80

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Heavenly Sunlight

George Harrison Cook

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: various, from flickr: creative commons.

Today's Flowers are given by Jane Darnell.

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. 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*

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