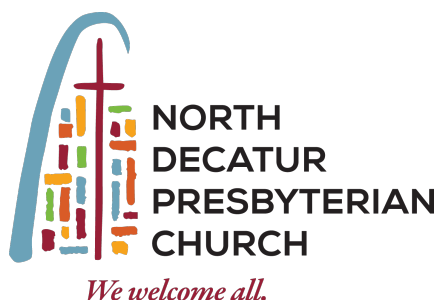




North Decatur Presbyterian Church is called by God to be a community of faith and worship, dedicated to Christian education and nurture so that we may go into the world to serve, work for peace and justice, and share God's love with all people.

611 Medlock Road, Decatur, GA 30033
www.ndpc.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

ORDINARY TIME

August 2, 2026

10:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

GATHERING SONG

*God Welcomes All (repeated several times)
Come All You People (English)*

Glory to God #399
Glory to God #388

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sylvia Broome, liturgist

Come, children of God,
rejoice today in the presence of your Creator!

**We sing songs,
celebrate with our voices and bodies,
lift our praise and prayers together!**

Open your hearts and receive
the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ.

**The Holy Spirit is here,
among us, within us,
bringing life as we learn to trust.**

Children of God, rejoice
and praise God together!

* OPENING SONG

Jesus Loves Me!

Glory to God #188

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

A second crop of hay lies cut
and turned. Five gleaming crows
search and peck between the rows.
They make a low, companionable squawk,
and like midwives and undertakers
possess a weird authority.

Crickets leap from the stubble,
parting before me like the Red Sea.
The garden sprawls and spoils.

Across the lake the campers have learned

to water ski. They have, or they haven't.
Sounds of the instructor's megaphone
suffuse the hazy air. "Relax! Relax!"

Cloud shadows rush over drying hay,
fences, dusty lane, and railroad ravine.
The first yellowing fronds of goldenrod
brighten the margins of the woods.

Schoolbooks, carpools, pleated skirts;
water, silver-still, and a vee of geese.

* The cicada's dry monotony breaks over me. The days are bright and free, bright and free. Then why did I cry today for an hour, with my whole body, the way babies cry? * A white, indifferent morning sky, and a crow, hectoring from its nest high in the hemlock, a nest as big as a laundry basket ... In my childhood I stood under a dripping oak, -“Three Songs at the End of Summer,” by Jane Kenyon, from <i>Collected Poems</i>. © 2005	while autumnal fog eddied around my feet, waiting for the school bus with a dread that took my breath away. The damp dirt road gave off this same complex organic scent. I had the new books—words, numbers, and operations with numbers I did not comprehend—and crayons, unspoiled by use, in a blue canvas satchel with red leather straps. Spruce, inadequate, and alien I stood at the side of the road. It was the only life I had.
---	--

BLESSING THE BACKPACKS

Children and Youth are invited to come forward with their backpacks.

**Loving God, be with these children and youth and their families.
Be with them and help them as they begin a new year of learning, teaching, growing, and
serving.
May their minds and their pencils be sharp; may their lunches never be forgotten at home;
and may their erasers help them to remember that mistakes are okay - in fact they are the
most important part of the process.
God, thank you for glue sticks and homework folders and laptops and crisp new notebooks
waiting to be filled; thank you for schools and libraries and teachers and custodians and
cafeteria staff; thank you for the gift of curiosity and for your Wisdom that is all around us.
God of Wisdom, bless these backpacks, and bless your children who carry them.
We pray this and everything in your name. Amen.**

* GRATEFUL RESPONSE	<i>Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me</i>	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 may 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	Matthew 18:1-6
-----------	----------------

SERMON	<i>The Sermon I Need to Hear: How Do I Answer a 5-Year-Old Who Asks, “Is God Real?”</i>	Kristin Hicks & Rev. David Lewicki
--------	---	---------------------------------------

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Look at the World
NDPC Summer Singers

John Rutter

INVITATION TO FOLLOW JESUS

Change-for-Change contributions in August support our immigrant-serving partner organizations: Casa Alternativa (www.casaalternativa.org), El Refugio (www.elrefugiostewart.org), and Team Libertad (www.teamlibertad.org). Please take time to learn about and support these organizations.

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.



COMMUNION

Everyone who seeks to know God is welcome to receive Communion.

INVITATION

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest (x3).

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest (x3).**

**Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest (x3).**

GREAT THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(use these or the words that are close to your heart)*

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.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

We share Communion today by intinction. The bread is gluten-free, and the cup is juice. Every one of you who seeks to know God is welcome to receive Communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of Communion, simply place your hands over your heart. If you prefer to receive communion in your pew the elements will be brought to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* CLOSING SONG

This Little Light of Mine

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

arr. Marilyn Ham

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: *TBD*

Today's Flowers are given by Gini Hazen.

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