



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

September 13th, 2026

11:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

* GATHERING MUSIC *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy* by George Cooke

* CHIMES

* CALL TO WORSHIP Jack Bowen, liturgist

It may seem naive,
in a world of grief,
to choose to live in joy;

**It may seem foolish,
in a world where solemnity is power,
to sing and dance to a different tune;**

**It may seem cruel,
in a world of suffering and injustice,
to speak of light and celebration;**

But you have come, Jesus,
to bring joy into our grief,
light into our darkness,
singing into our mourning;
**and it is an act of healing and proclamation
to believe and embrace the joy you offer.**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
We worship God in joy!

* OPENING SONG *Siyahamba* Glory to God #853

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

The precision of pain and the blurriness of joy. I'm thinking
how precise people are when they describe their pain in a doctor's
office.

Even those who haven't learned to read and write are precise:

This one's a throbbing pain, and this one's
a wrenching pain, and this one gnaws, this one burns and
this is a sharp pain and this

is a dull one. Right here. Precisely here, yes, yes.

Joy blurs everything. I've heard people say

after nights of love and feasting, It was great,

I was in seventh heaven. And even the space man who floated
in outer space, tethered to a space ship, could only say, "Great,
wonderful, I have no words."

The blurriness of joy and the precision of pain—

I want to describe with a sharp pain's precision

happiness and blurry joy. I learned to speak among the pains.

-from The Precision of Pain and the Blurriness of Joy, by Yehuda Amichai;
trans. by C. Bloch & C. Kronfeld

Video: *What Brought You Joy This Week?*

REFLECTION ON THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus
was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The
good news is that this joy is now given to us.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.

We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bring healing to the broken,

to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven, loved, and free!

* 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 1st grade are invited to leave now with leaders for our child-centered reflection
time. 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

We've come this far by faith,
leaning on the Lord,
trusting in the holy Word;
God's never failed us yet.

O, can't turn around,
we've come this far by faith.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[a] praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

SERMON

A Heart with God: Joy

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
NDPC Community Choir; Jerel Jefferson, soloist

Ludwig van Beethoven,
arr. M. Warren

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 September support the PCUSA's World Communion Offering. The World Communion Offering affirms our community's belonging to both a national and a global body of disciples of Jesus who pursue reconciliation and peace. In this spirit, the World Communion Offering supports denominational initiatives and partnerships that work toward racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

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

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Glory to God #100

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Mark Hayes

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: *TBD.*

Today's flowers are given by Cindy Hays.

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*

Susannah Denham, *Music Fellow*

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