



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 20th, 2026
11:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

* GATHERING MUSIC *O God, You Search Me* Glory to God #29

* CHIMES

* CALL TO WORSHIP -after Isaiah 43; Charlotte Stone, liturgist

"Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name—you are mine!"

When we go through deep waters and great trouble,
God is with us.

When we go through rivers of difficulty,
We will not go under.

When we walk through the fire of oppression,
**we will not be burned up;
the flames will not consume us.**

I am the Lord, your God,
the Holy One of Israel.

"Do not be afraid."

For God is with us always.

* OPENING SONG *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler* Glory to God #183

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

3 30-second videos: *What are you afraid of?*

Looking back, it's something I've always had:

As a kid, it was a glass-floored elevator

I crouched at the bottom of, my eyes squinched tight,

Or staircase whose gaps I was afraid I'd slip through,

Though someone always said I'd be all right—
Just don't look down or See, it's not so bad
(The nothing rising underfoot). Then later
The high-dive at the pool, the tree-house perch,
Ferris wheels, balconies, cliffs, a penthouse view,
The merest thought of airplanes. You can call
It a fear of heights, a horror of the deep;
But it isn't the unfathomable fall
That makes me giddy, makes my stomach lurch,
It's that the ledge itself invents the leap.

-Fear of Happiness, by A.E. Stallings, *Poetry* (March 2010).

Visio Divina: Memento Mori

Still Life: An Allegory of the Vanities of Human Life, by Harmen Steenwijck (1640)

REFLECTION ON THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

When the wind is strong and the waves are high,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When our dreams come to naught,
and we wonder what lies ahead,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When those we love disappoint us,
or hurt us deeply,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When we begin to question God's call,
or doubt God's love,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When our faith is stretched to the breaking point,
the point of death itself,
remember the words of Jesus:

Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

* GRATEFUL RESPONSE

I've Got Peace like a River

Glory to God #623

* 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

Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

Be strong and courageous. *Do not be afraid*; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

The LORD is my light and my salvation—*whom shall I fear?* The LORD is the stronghold of my life—*of whom shall I be afraid?* (Psalm 27:1)

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, *I will fear no evil*, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and *do not be afraid*. (John 14:7)

SERMON

A Heart with God: Fear

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
NDPC Community Choir

arr. Alice Parker

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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Glory to God #834

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go Albert Peace, arr. Craig Courtney

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*

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