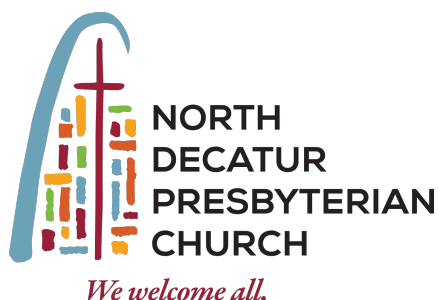




North Decatur Presbyterian Church is called by God to be a community of faith and worship, dedicated to Christian education and nurture so that we may go into the world to serve, work for peace and justice, and share God's love with all people.

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

ORDINARY TIME

September 27th, 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 Matthew 6:25-27; Lin Wormley, liturgist

Look at the birds of the air;
they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns
and yet God provides for the basic sustenance of life.

May our hearts be open to trust you.

Look at the birds of the air;
they neither study nor plan nor plot their course
and yet God writes the instinct for migration into their hearts.

May our eyes be open to see you.

Look at the birds of the air;
they neither talk nor vote nor debate their responsibility
yet God weaves them into communities which nurture and defend.

May our hands be open to serve you.

* OPENING SONG *Why Should I Feel Discouraged?* Glory to God #661

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

Visio Divina: *The Scream*, by Edvard Munch

To be, or not to be, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep,

No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub:

For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
 When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
 Must give us pause—there's the respect
 That makes calamity of so long life.
 For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
 Th'oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
 The pangs of dispriz'd love, the law's delay,
 The insolence of office, and the spurns
 That patient merit of th'unworthy takes,
 When he himself might his quietus make
 With a bare bodkin? Who would fardels bear,
 To grunt and sweat under a weary life,

But that the dread of something after death,
 The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn
 No traveller returns, puzzles the will,
 And makes us rather bear those ills we have
 Than fly to others that we know not of?
 Thus conscience doth make cowards of us all,
 And thus the native hue of resolution
 Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
 And enterprises of great pith and moment
 With this regard their currents turn awry
 And lose the name of action.

-To be, or not to be, that is the question," by William Shakespeare, from *Hamlet*

REFLECTION ON THE MEDITATION

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God of grace and mercy,
You are present with us as we face an unknown future.
 In the ever-changing and uncertain world where we find ourselves,
 we know that you are in all, with all, and through all.
You are all-loving,
and ever-present.
 We know you are a good God
who holds us in our anxiety and distress
and who also holds the future.
 Our hearts and minds can rest and hope in you.
Amen.

* 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

25-26 "If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you

hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

27-29 “Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

30-33 “If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God’s *giving*. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

34 “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. (Matthew 6:25-34, *The Message*)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, NRSVUE)

SERMON

A Heart with God: Anxiety

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

The Meditations of My Heart
NDPC Community Choir

by Elaine Hagenberg
Based on Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.
O Lord my Rock,
O Lord my Strength,
O Lord my God and my Redeemer.
O Lord.

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.

GRATITUDE CAMPAIGN 2026: HELP, THANKS, WOW

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

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Glory to God #837

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Images in Worship: *The Scream*, by Edvard Munch (1893); *Untitled*, by Monica Rohan (2015). **Today's flowers** are given by Barbara Gifford, Jean Wright, & Charlotte Stone in memory of Ruth Schmidt.

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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*

Susannah Denham, *Music Fellow*

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