



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

October 18th, 2026

11:00 AM

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

PREPARATION & ADORATION

* GATHERING MUSIC *We Are One in the Spirit* Glory to God #300

* CHIMES

* CALL TO WORSHIP Tim Merritt, liturgist

Triune God, you exist in eternal relationship.

You are One and are also three.

May this mystery remind us of a truth:

we are never alone.

We are individuals and we are a Body.

Your love joins us together.

We belong to ourselves. We belong to each other. We belong to You.

* OPENING SONG *I Will Come to You* Glory to God #177

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MEDITATION

You have stirred in us the desire to praise you, for you have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it comes to rest in you.

Augustine of Hippo, from *Confessions* (397 CE)

As a child I belonged, absolutely, to everything. To color, to sound, to warmth, to my mother and the smell of her long purple dress with small crescent yellow moons, to the leaves swirling against the blue sky overhead, to the sharp, clean smell of eucalyptus pods crushed underfoot in the soft mattresses of understory leaves, to the tiny black ants crawling up my leg, to the sunlight filtering gauzily through the window, to the spiced apple-flavored yogurt I was allowed on my birthday, and to the dark cool recesses of rooms entered from blinding California light.

What I first belonged to was my senses, and the pleasure of each as it encountered the world new, new, new, and new. What the senses first teach us is relation.

And then, suddenly, I didn't belong, to anything or anyone, not even to my own body. I remember looking down at my thighs encased in tights, with my calves tucked under them, while I sat with the rest of my second-grade class gathered around a teacher with a guitar, and suddenly knowing the thighs were too big. My body, my girl's body, if it did not belong to me, must not fit in the world, either.

...How many suddenly discover that their bodies belong to others? How long does it take, and is it possible, to belong to oneself again?

-from *Refuse/Refuge: Be Longing*, by Eleni Sikelianos (April 2017; poetrymagazine.com)

* ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Holy One has made a place for you—

a place that is full of life and love,

forgiveness and humility,

kindness and justice.

You belong to yourself, to the Body, and to the Great Love.

Your belonging is your salvation.

Stay. Abide. Rest in this truth.

* GRATEFUL RESPONSE

God Welcomes All

Glory to God #399

* 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

SCRIPTURE

Acts 10

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears God and does what is just is acceptable to God (NRSV).

Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as God says, the door is open (The Message).

SERMON

A Heart with God: Belonging

Rev. David Lewicki

DEDICATION

ANTHEM

Alleluia
NDPC Community Choir

Randall Thompson

INVITATION TO FOLLOW JESUS

The Change-for-Change offering in October supports the EcoVillage School. In Haiti, where life is defined by uncertainty and hardship, the school stands as a lifeline of hope. While much of the country struggles with violence, hunger, and the absence of governance, the school provides a sanctuary of safety, learning, and community. Learn more: <https://www.haitiecovillageschool.org>

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.



* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

Today, we dedicate our financial pledges and pledges of time & talent to NDPC. If you would like to read more about how your financial gift provides for NDPC's ministry, visit www.ndpc.org/stewardship. Pledges can be received up until the end of November 2026.



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.

* CLOSING SONG

We Are One in Christ Jesus

Glory to God #322

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

American spiritual

NOTES ON WORSHIP TODAY:

Today's Image 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