

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

August 30, 2026

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”

Celebrating 45 Years of Being Out in Northern Virginia!

There is a book at the Sanctuary entry where prayer requests may be entered.

There is also a Square device at the Sanctuary entry if you would like to make your Offering Donation via credit card.

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change Without Notice

Gathering Music

Jorge Martinez

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Emma Chattin

Centering

At the sound of the singing bowl,
please take a few moments to prepare yourself for our worship together

Illumination

Tee

Prayers of the Community

Andrea Albamonte

Choir Response

Gathering Words

One: To answer the call of Abraham means to leave the familiar behind.

Many: *We journey together!*

One: It means to step out in faith toward an unknown and uncertain future.

Many: *We journey together!*

One: The times are changing and the seasons are changing

Many: *And we journey together!*

One: We are not alone as we answer the call!

ALL: *We journey together!*

First Reading ~ *Genesis 12:1-9*

YHWH said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people, and the home of your parents, and go to a place I will show you. I will make of you a great people. I will bless you, and make your name great that it will be used in blessings. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And all the people on the face of the earth will be blessed through you.”

Abram, who was 75 years old when he left Haran, began the journey as YHWH had instructed, and his nephew Lot went with them. Abram took Sarai, his spouse, Lot, and all the possessions and dependents they had acquired in Haran, and set out for Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram and his family traveled through the land until they arrived at the sacred place at Shechem and came to the oak grove of Moreh. The Canaanites occupied the land at that time.

YHWH appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” Abram built an altar where YHWH appeared to him. Then they moved off toward the hill country east of Bethel and pitched their tent, with Bethel toward the sea and Ai to the east. There Abram built an altar to YHWH and invoked the name of YHWH.

After that they journeyed on by stages towards the Negev.

Second Reading

~ adapted from Ernst Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham in
"The Spirituality of Imperfection: Storytelling and the Search for Meaning"

The two extremes of modern travel- the "Are we there yet?" and the "Who cares where we are?" syndromes –fail to grasp the nature of the pilgrim's journey, which is neither a straight-line trip nor mere meandering around. The word "journey" originally meant the distance traveled in one day. A journey becomes a pilgrimage journey as we discover, day by day, that the distance traveled is less important than the experiences we gain. Joseph Campbell said, "When you are on a journey and the destination seems further and further away, then you realize that the real destination is the journey itself."

Song of Response

No.

Reflection

Finding Ourselves in the Bible
A Spiritual Journey

Community Dialogue

Rev. Emma Chattin

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Kurt Jaeger and Ken Williamson

Sung Words of Institution:

"Let Us Be Bread"

By Thomas J. Porter

The Leader will sing the verses. Please join together on the refrain:

Let us be bread, blessed by our God, broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured. Let us be one in our God.

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Invitation to the Table

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

No.

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧