

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 43 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.

June 16, 2024 Pridetide 3

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change

Gathering Music

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

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from a poem by Marge Piercy*

Fab Fernandez

One: Connections are made slowly, and sometimes they grow underground.

Many: You cannot always tell what is happening by looking around.

One: More than half the tree or shrub is spread out in the soil under your feet.

Many: There is so much life unseen!

One: While so much life spreads above,

Many: Spreading like a squash plant that overruns the garden!

One: Using the sun to make sugar, sweetness, and life.

Many: Weaving real connections, creating shade and home for more life and fruit.

One: Live life like that: make life that is loving....

Many: Keep tangling and interweaving and taking more in, a thicket and bramble,

One: Wilderness to the outside but to us interconnected, with rabbit runs, burrows, and lairs.

All: Reach out, keep reaching out, keep growing.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Mark 4:26-34*

Jesus said further, “The reign of God is like this: a sower scatters seed on the ground, then goes to bed at night and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows without the sower knowing how it happens. The soil produces a crop by itself — first the blade, then the ear, and finally the ripe wheat in the ear. When the crop is ready, the sower wields the sickle, for the time is ripe for harvest.”

(continued)

Jesus went on to say, "What comparison can we use for the reign of God? What image will help to present it? It is like a mustard seed which people plant in the soil: it is the smallest of all the earth's seeds, yet once it is sown, it grows up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade."

Using many parables like these, Jesus spoke the message to them, as much as they could understand. Everything was spoken in parables, but Jesus explained everything to the disciples later when they were alone.

Second Reading ~ adapted from Ann Lamott in "*Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*"

Images of tiny things, babies, yeast, and mustard seeds can guide us. Things that grow are what change everything. Moments of compassion, giving, grief, and wonder shift our behavior, get inside us and change realms we might not have agreed to have changed otherwise. Each field is weeds and wheat, but mix the wheat with yeast, the most ordinary of elements, and it starts changing the flour. It grows. It rises. Wow! It becomes bread! And so do we! Bread to eat and to offer.

Song of Response

No.

Reflection **PRIDETIDE: The Tide Always Turns**
It's The Little Things

Rev Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ **Welcome To The Table!** ☛
Rev. Emma Chattin & Lee Shadwick

Invitation To The Table
Consecration & Words of Institution
Sharing The Open Meal of Christ
Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing
Community Blessing Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

No.

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

☞ **Go in Peace** ☛