

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 42 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.*

**January 7, 2023 Epiphany**

***Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change***

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Gathering Music

Masha Feygelson

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

Kurt Jaeger

Gathering Words ~ *from Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea (314 AD)*

Tee

One: May I be no one's enemy, and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides.

***Many: May I wish for every person's happiness and envy none.***

One: May I never rejoice in the ill fortune of one who has wronged me.

***Many: May I, to the extent of my power, give needful help to all who are in want.***

One: May I never fail a friend.

***Many May I always keep tame that which rages within me.***

One: May I accustom myself to be gentle,  
and never be angry with others because of circumstances.

***All: May I know good people and follow in their footsteps.***

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Matthew 2:1-12*

Leigh Anne Arnold

After the birth of Jesus, which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of King Herod, Magi, astrologers, from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed and troubled, and the whole of Jerusalem with him. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written:

***'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a leader who is to shepherd my people Israel.'***

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." After their audience with Herod, they set out. The star they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another way.

## Second Reading

~ adapted from Sister Macrina Wiederkehr in "A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary"

*Following the star we lean into your glory.  
In your light, we see the light.  
We never knew we were stars  
until you came.*

In the depths of my heart where God teaches me wisdom, I'm finally able to own the truth that God leaned down from heaven to show us how good we are, rather than to tell us how bad we are. To liberate us sinners, yes, but above all to liberate us from the folly of our own self-hate. We have heard far too much about the bad news of our corruption. The good news is that our frailty is what God chose to be wrapped in during the sojourn on earth. It is an incredible compliment to us. God loved us enough to get inside our skin. God loved us enough to help us see our dignity and value. We are like stars. Our light is the reflection of a greater light. We are beautiful to behold when we let God shine on us, in us, and through us.

Song of Response                      We Three Kings                      Insert

Reflection                      Following Yonder Star

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation                      Frank Vance

Offertory                      We Are An Offering                      MCC NoVA Choir  
by Dwight Liles

✠ Welcome To The Table! ✠

Rev. Emma Chattin

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                      Arise Your Light Has Come                      No. 164

Benediction and Sending Forth                      Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

✠ Go in Peace ✠