

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”*

*Celebrating 42 Years*

*Easter II April 16, 2023*

*There is a book at the Sanctuary entry where prayer requests may be entered. There is also a Square device at the entry of the Sanctuary if you would like to make your Offering Donation via credit card.*

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

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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

Gathering Words ~ *from Mark 16*

One: On the first day of the week, at early dawn,  
they came to the tomb to anoint the body, and wondered...

**Many: *Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?***

One: They looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back, and on the right  
they saw a young person. They were alarmed. But the young person said to them:

**Many: *Why do you seek the living among the dead?***

One: So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them.  
And they said nothing, for they were afraid.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

Reading ~ *John 20:19-31*

When it was evening on that same day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the room where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Temple authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that Thomas (nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Christ." Thomas' answer was, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later the disciples were again in the room, and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then to Thomas, Jesus said, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!" Jesus then said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Holy One of God, and that through believing you may have newness of life.

## Second Reading ~ adapted from Maggi Dawn in "Second Thoughts"

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Encountering God in depth, touching and being touched by God, inevitably means that we have to unlearn a lot of ideas that are deeply ingrained in us, but which may be at odds with the truth. We draw our idea of God from a mixture of sources, often unconsciously; from childhood experiences, from media, from things we have heard or misheard in church, read or misread in the scriptures. This collection of ideas is the baggage we bring with us to faith, so that God becomes, in our experience, a mixture of truth and misconception. The God we expect to meet may not be the God we actually encounter.

Allowing our idea of Divinity to change and grow is no easy task. There are times when I have held on for dear life to ideas I believed were central to my faith, only to grow slowly into the realization that I was mistaken.

When I was taking my first degree in theology, most of the building blocks of my faith came up for serious reexamination. I asked one of my professors how it was possible for faith to survive this kind of intense intellectual scrutiny. He thought for a while, then said, "Once upon a time I believed in a great many things. Now I believe only in a few things... but I believe in them more deeply than I ever thought possible."

Song of Response

Let It Breathe On Me

No. 288

Reflection

### Questions About The Resurrection

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

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Offertory

We Are An Offering  
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Rev. Emma Chattin

Invitation To The Table

Consecration & Words of Institution

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

Come Now, Almighty God

No. 275

Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧