

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**
Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”
Celebrating 41 Years
Palm Sunday April 2, 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

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 ~ *adapted from Kenneth L. Patton*

One: Let us worship with our eyes and ears and fingertips;

Many: Let us love the world through heart and mind and body.

One: We feed our eyes upon the mystery and revelation in the faces of our siblings.

Many: We seek to understand the shyness behind arrogance, the fear behind pride;

One: The tenderness behind clumsy strength, the anguish behind cruelty.

**Many: All life flows into a great common parade of life,
if we will only open our eyes to our companions.**

One: *Let us worship with the opening of all the windows of our beings,
with the full outstretching of our spirits!*

Many: Life comes with singing and laughter, with tears and confiding,

One: With a rising wave too great to be held in the mind and heart and body,
to those who have fallen in love with life.

All: Let us worship, celebrate, and let us learn to love.

Prayers of the Community Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Matthew 21:1-11*

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find an donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Chosen One needs them.’ And they will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of Jesus and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Second Reading ~ *an ancient fable*

One day a farmer's donkey fell into a dry well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway. It just wasn't worth it to try to retrieve the donkey. So he invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down. Many shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down into the well, expecting to see the donkey completely covered. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off.

Song of Response Hosanna, Loud Hosanna No. 213

Reflection Who Are You? Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

❖ Welcome To The Table! ❖

Rev. Emma Chattin

Invitation To The Table

Consecration & Words of Institution

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing

Benediction & Sending Forth

Postlude

Go in Peace