

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.

December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change

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

Special Music

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Julia Braxton

Illumination

Lighting the Advent Candles

Susan McGlohn

Special Music

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

Julia Braxton

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Luke 2:1-17*

Leigh Anne Arnold

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Lighting The Christmas Candle

Songs of Response

Away In A Manger

No. 124
Verses 1 & 2

Silent Night, Holy Night

No. 134
Verses 1 & 3

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Peter DeHann in “The Advent of Jesus”*

Lee Shadwick

Jesus has been born. The long-awaited Messiah has at last come to earth to liberate people. This is wonderful news. The best news yet. But who else on earth knows about it? Just Joseph and Mary. That's it. No one else is aware that liberation has finally come, albeit in the form of an infant. To whom should God proclaim this breaking news? A political figure? Not Herod. Later he wants to kill the child before his rule and power are threatened. Religious leaders? Though this seems like the ideal group, they are not. They will later oppose the ministry of Jesus and dismiss him. He represents change to their religious status quo. His teaching opposes their authority, leadership, and prestige. Ultimately, they will react just like Herod, with jealous and murderous intent. Who then would accept the announcement of Jesus's arrival as the good news it is? Who would celebrate it and not oppose it?

