

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
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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
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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?

Third Reading ~ *Luke 2:8-14*

Leigh Anne Arnold

In those days There were shepherds in the area living in the fields keeping watch by turns over their flocks by night. And lo, an angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shown round about them, and they were very much afraid.

The angel said to them, "Fear Not! For behold, I bring you good news, good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a savior- the Messiah. Let this be a sign unto you: you'll find an infant wrapped in simple cloth, and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest. And on earth, peace, good will toward all."

Song of Response Angels We Have Heard on High^s No. 125

Reflection

Advent IV

LOVE

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Jamie Wallace

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

Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing

Community Blessing ~ Dale Bradshaw

Closing Song

Joy to the World

No. 132

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧