

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 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent

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

Illumination

Susan McGlohn

Gathering Words~ *adapted from Denise Levertov in the poem “Beginners”*

Genevieve Walker

One: But we have only begun to love the earth, we have only begun to imagine the fullness of life.

Many: *How could we tire of hope? -there is so much potential, so much in bud!*

One: How can we desire to fail? – we have only begun to imagine justice and mercy!

Many: *Only begun to envision how it might be to live as siblings, to embrace beast and flower, to exist with all of creation as friend, not oppressor.*

One: Surely our river cannot already be hastening into the sea of nothingness?

Many: *Not yet, Not yet- there is too much broken that must be mended!*

One: There is too much hurt that we have done to one another that cannot yet be forgiven!

Many: *We have only just begin to know the power that is in us if only we would join our solitudes together in the communion of struggle.*

One: So much potential, so much in bud!

Many: *So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture.*

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Isaiah 64:1-9*

Kate Gilligan

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, that the mountains would quake at your presence. As fire kindles the brushwood and causes water to boil, make your name known to your adversaries so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has ever seen any God besides you who works for those who wait for you. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like soiled rags. We all have withered like leaves, and our wrongdoing, like the wind, takes us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our wrongdoing.

Yet, YHWH, you are our heavenly parent; we are the clay, and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands. Do not be exceedingly angry, O God, and do not remember wrongdoing forever. Look now, please, see, for we are all your people.

Second Reading ~from Alexandra Billings

There are Angels in the most unlikely of places. They surround us and they protect us and they are constantly whispering. Allow yourself to ask for them. And if not, if that is not what you need, then know that you ARE one. You were given the right to fly and to lead from the first breath. Find yourself in need of others, and you will find yourself in the very center of Hope.

We are- all of us -in this thing together.

Song of Response

Reflection

Advent 1

HOPE

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Tee

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 ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧