

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

January 4, 2026 Christmas II

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”

Celebrating 44 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.

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change Without Notice

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

Tee

Introduction To Prayer

Choir

Prayers of the Community

Andrea Albamonte

Song of Response

Choir

First Reading ~ Luke 2:22-35

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. For it's written in the law of our God, "Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated as holy to God". They likewise came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God.

Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child, Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Now, O God, you are dismissing your servant in peace, just as you promised; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all peoples to see - a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel." As the child's mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your heart as well."

There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God, and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem.

Second Reading

Margot Scheiffley

~ adapted from Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor in "Truth to Tell: The Perfect Mirror"

Jesus was not brought down by atheism and anarchy. He was brought down by law and order allied with religion, which is always a deadly mix. Beware those who claim to know the mind of God and are prepared to use force, if necessary, to make others conform. Beware those who cannot tell God's will from their own. When chaplains start wearing guns and hanging out at the sheriff's office, watch out. Someone is about to have no king but Caesar.

This can happen anywhere at anytime, and we are as likely to be the perpetrators as the victims.

I remember being at a retreat once where the leader asked us to think of someone who represented Christ in our lives. When it came time to share our answers, one woman stood up and said, "I had to think hard about that one. I kept thinking, Who is it that told me the truth about myself so clearly that I wanted to kill them for it?" According to John, Jesus died because he told the truth to everyone he met. He was the truth, a perfect mirror in which people saw themselves in God's own light.

Song of Response

What Child Is This

No. 148

V. 1&2

Reflection

Mixed Blessing

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Denise Carson

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

by Dwight Liles

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Sung Words of Institution:

"Let Us Be Bread"

By Thomas J. Porter

The Leader will sing the verses. Please join together on the refrain:

Let us be bread, blessed by our God, broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured. Let us be one in our God.

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Invitation to the Table

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing

Closing Song

Arise, Your Light Is Come

No. 164

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧