

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

July 12, 2026

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”
Celebrating 45 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 Chatten

Centering

At the sound of the singing bowl,
please take a few moments to prepare yourself for our worship together

Illumination

Tee

Prayers of the Community

Starlene Keppel

Choir Response

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Dan Lowen*

One: Loving God, We confess we are sometimes impatient and often unkind.

Many: Teach us to love with patience and kindness.

One: We confess there are times we celebrate the misfortune of others.

Many: Teach us to love with compassion.

One: There are times when we are tempted to judge, to assume the worst,

Many: Teach us to love with trust.

One: There are times when we are tempted to despair, to assume that all is lost.

Many: Teach us to love with hope;

One: When we are tempted to give up, to assume it will never happen,

Many: Teach us to love with faith.

All: Loving God, teach us to love.

First Reading ~ *Matthew 8:5-13*

Fab Fernandez

As Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him, appealing to Jesus, and saying, “Rabbi, my young man is at home in bed paralyzed, suffering in great pain.” Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.” The centurion answered, “Rabbi, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me, and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servants, ‘Do this,’ and they do it.” When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, I’ve found no one in Israel with such great faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will take their places at the banquet with Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Leah, and Rachel, and Jacob in the dominion of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go home; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And his young man was healed in that hour.

Second Reading

Kat Velkoff

~from Rev. Barbra Brown Taylor in "An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith"

Watch how this rabbi practices what he preaches and you will note that his teaching is not limited to people who look, act, or think like him. He does the same eye-to-eye thing with Roman centurions, Samaritan lepers, Syro-Phoenician women, and hostile Judeans that he does with his own Galilean disciples. He does it with slaves and rulers, twelve-year-old girls and powerful men, people who can be useful to him and people who cannot. No one is dismissed from his circle of concern, for no one made in God's image is minor in the revelation of that same God.

In biblical tradition, the practice of encounter shows up most often as the practice of hospitality, or the love of the stranger. According to Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of Great Britain, "the Hebrew Bible in one verse commands, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' but in no fewer than 36 places commands us to 'love the stranger.'"

Response Song There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

No. 23

Reflection Finding Ourselves in the Bible

Things We Do For Love

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Ken Williamson

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 Ken Williamson

Closing Song

O For a World

No. 575

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧