

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.*

March 3, 2024 Lent III
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

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Leonard Mason*

One: We affirm the unfailing renewal of life.

Many: *Rising and reaching upward, all living creatures shall fulfill themselves.*

One: We affirm the steady growth of humanity.

**Many: *Rising from ancient cradles and reaching for the stars,
people the world over seek new ways of understanding.***

One: We affirm a continuing hope that transcends the tension of tradition,

All: *Leading the spirits of individuals to rise and build a better world.*

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Luke 5:27-38*

Genevieve Walker

When Jesus went out after this, he saw a tax collector named Levi (Matthew) sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said, and Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.

Levi gave a big reception at his house for Jesus, and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others at dinner with them. The Pharisees and the religious scholars complained to Jesus’ disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?” Jesus answered them, “It’s not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are not well. I have come to call not the virtuous, but sinners to repentance.” They then said to him, John (the Baptizer’s) disciples fast frequently and offer prayers; the disciples of the Pharisees do the same. But yours eat and drink.” Jesus replied, “Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridal party is still with them? The day will come when the bridal party will be taken from them; then they’ll fast.”

Jesus then told them this parable: “People never tear a piece from a new garment and sew it on an old one. If they do, not only will they have torn the new garment, but the piece taken from the new will not match the old. And people never put new wine in an old wineskin. If they do, the new wine will expand and burst the skin; the wine will spill out and the skin will be ruined. No, the new wine must be put in fresh wineskins.”

Second Reading ~adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "Falling Upward"

If change and growth are not programmed into your spirituality, if there are not serious warnings about the blinding nature fanaticism, then your religion will always end up worshiping the status quo-- as if it were God! -and doing little more than protecting your present position and personal advantage. Even though the first message Jesus preached is clearly "change!" (Mark 1:15, Matthew 4:17), where he told his listeners to "repent," which literally means to "change your mind," it did not strongly influence Christian history-- or even our present. This resistance to change is so common, in fact, that it is almost what we have come to expect from "religious people", who too often tend to love the past more than the future or the present.

Song of Response

God of Change and Glory

No. 177

Reflection

Giving It Up

Old Ways

Rev Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

by Dwight Liles

✠ 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

In The Midst of New Dimensions

No. 391

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

✠ Go in Peace ✠