

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

**January 11, 2026      Epiphany**

***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***

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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 Starlene Keppel

Song of Response Choir

First Reading ~ *Matthew 2:1-12*

After the birth of Jesus, which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of King Herod, Magi, astrologers, from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed and troubled, and the whole of Jerusalem with him. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written:

‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a leader who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star’s appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” After their audience with Herod, they set out. The star they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by a different way.

Second Reading Kat Velkoff

*~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in “Epiphany: You Can’t Go Home Again”*

Most of us prefer ideas and words; we are afraid of any authentically new experience. Unlike the Magi, we do not tend to allow stars to divert us to a new and unknown place. Most of us stay inside our private castles and avoid such questionable adventures. Yes, we avoid death, supposedly, but we also avoid birth. We miss out on the great epiphany.

(Continued)

An epiphany is not an experience that we can create from within, but one that we can only be open to and receive from another. Epiphanies leave us totally out of control, and they always demand that we change. We would rather have well-structured objectified religion, which leaves us potentially in control and never having to change at all.

The Magi bring themselves and their assumptions on a perilous journey, and only then can they offer their gifts. And it all leads to an encounter that rearranges their lives, their self-images, their pocketbooks, and even their return plans.

They enter another group and religion from their own, they trust their own skills as astrologers (and God uses their secular profession to bring them to God!), they interrupt their daily regimen at great length and, if they were indeed royals, they submitted to another. It's all quite extraordinary imagery... one might even say... very "un-religious."

Song of Response                      We Three Kings                      Inserts

Reflection

## Surprising Connections

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering  
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ 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                      As With Gladness Those of Old                      No. 159

Benediction and Sending Forth                      Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧