

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”*

*Celebrating 41 Years*

*Second Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023*

*There is a book at the Sanctuary entry where prayer requests may be entered. There is also a Square device at the entry of the Sanctuary if you would like to make your Offering Donation via credit card.*

*Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change*

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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

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Clinton Lee Scott*

One: Always it is easier to pay homage to prophets than to heed the direction of their vision.

**Many: *It is easier to blindly venerate the saints  
than to learn the human quality of their sainthood.***

One: To worship the wise is much easier than to learn from their wisdom and mistakes.

**Many: *The grandchildren of those who stoned the prophet  
sometimes gather up the stones to build the prophet's monument.***

**ALL: *Always it is easier to worship a prophet than to heed the direction of their vision.***

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

YHWH said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have not chosen him to be ruler of Israel. Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. For I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have chosen my ruler from among his children." But Samuel replied, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, I will be murdered." YHWH replied, "Take a heifer with you: I am sending you to Jesse. Tell him you came to offer a sacrifice to YHWH, and invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do." Samuel did what YHWH said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met Samuel. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel said, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to YHWH. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his children and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, and Samuel saw Eliab, he thought, "Surely God's anointed now stands here before YHWH." But YHWH said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have not chosen him. YHWH does not see as mortals see; mortals see only outward appearances. YHWH sees into the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, to pass before Samuel, who said, "No. YHWH has not chosen this one." Next came Shammah, but Samuel said, "Not this one either." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "YHWH has not chosen any of these." Samuel asked, "Are all your sons here?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse said, "but he is keeping the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until the lad arrives." So they sent for the boy, a ruddy youth with bright eyes and handsome to behold. YHWH said, "Rise and anoint this one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed the boy in the presence of his brothers; and from that day forward the spirit of YHWH came mightily upon David and was with him. Then Samuel set out on his way to Ramah.

## Second Reading ~ adapted from John Pavlovitz in "The Second Coming of the Progressive Heretical Jesus"

Jesus was a progressive. He came with bold, clear vision, not with vague religious nostalgia. He started a revolutionary underground movement, not a top-down theocracy of privilege. And he didn't harken back to some mythical glorious time in the past, he said that Heaven had now come- a new counterintuitive way of living and of being in the world marked by goodness.

His message for the religious elite of his faith tradition was that something beautiful had come to burst from the rigid, lifeless container that could no longer hold it— the one called religion. And Jesus was a heretic. He was the Messiah, the Anointed One, but he did not come as a mighty political power as many Israelites were expecting; not as an armed, avenging soldier, but as a humble, suffering servant who would get low to lift up others. He came in paradox as the God who would wash feet.

He declared us all responsible for each other, our neighbors, even our enemies. He was a maker of peace, one through whom forgiveness flowed, a turner of cheeks, a lover of all; a homeless, dark-skinned Jewish Rabbi, who said that love of wealth would make it almost impossible to really see God or to live well. And now, two thousand years later, the job of revealing the character of God is once again in the hands of the heretics, sinners, and unlikely mercy-givers. Just as he first came in a form that was blasphemous and scandalous to the bloated religious elite of his time, so he is coming again in a way that is not expected, but is no less revelatory about the breadth of the love of God.

Song of Response

Just As I Am

No. 207  
Verses 2,3,4

Reflection

Out of the Shadows of Siblings  
or  
God is Full of Surprises

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

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

Community Blessing ~ Rev. Emma Chattin

Closing Song

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

No. 12

Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☛