

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**
Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”
Celebrating 42 Years
Easter III April 23, 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

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 David C. Pohl*

Denise Carson

One: We gather together with our ancestors, our fellow travelers, and those who will journey after us, to share for a time our stories, our warmth, our nourishment, and our illumination,

Many: To witness and share the mysterious and the miraculous,

One: To reclaim the vision of an earth made fair,

All: With all her people as one.

Prayers of the Community

Kurt Jaeger

First Reading ~ *Luke 24:13-35*

Ellis Fraser

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. Jesus said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. What’s more, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then the stranger said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; who then vanished from their sight.

Second Reading

Kurt Jaeger

~adapted from Macrina Wiederkehr in *A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary*

People are nourishing. Full of stories! When your depth meets the depth of another person, what a sacrament that can be! I want these words to be an encouragement for you to linger awhile over each person you encounter each time you encounter them. Look on them with love. Contemplate them. Draw them in. Take them into your heart. They are people who share the earth with you. They are the Body of Christ. You have a common God. Your pathways may be different, but the love God has for each is the same. Bless them by seeing them. Bless them by listening to them. Look on them with love.

Song of Response When Our Heart Is In A Holy Place by Joyce Poley

*Chorus: When our heart is in a holy place, when our heart is in a holy place
We are blessed with love and amazing grace, when our heart is in a holy place*

*When we trust the wisdom in each of us, Every color every creed and kind,
And we see our faces in each other's eyes Then our heart is in a holy place.*

Chorus

*When we tell our story from deep inside, and we listen with a loving mind,
And we hear our voices in each other's words Then our heart is in a holy place.*

Chorus

*When we share the silence of sacred space, And the God of our Heart stirs within,
And we feel the power of each other's faith, Then our heart is in a holy place.*

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Reflection

Soul Food

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Jamie Wallace

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 ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

For The Beauty of the Earth

No. 28

Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❖ Go in Peace ❖