

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”    Celebrating 43 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.*

**July 7, 2024**

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

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## Gathering Music

### 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

### Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Robert French Leavens*      Fab Fernandez

One: Holy and beautiful is the custom which brings us in the presence of the Most High:

**Many: The presence of the one in whose image we are made,**

One: To face our ideals, to remember our aspirations,

**Many: To give thanks, to be enlightened, to be strengthened.**

One: Through this sweet quiet hour breathes the worship of the ages,

**Many: The cathedral music of history.**

One: Three unseen guests attend: Faith, Hope, Love:

**Many: Let all our hearts prepare them room.**

### Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

### First Reading ~ *Genesis 18:1-14*

Genevieve Walker

YHWH appeared to Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre, while Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent. It was the hottest part of the day. He looked up and saw three travelers standing nearby. Abraham ran from the entrance of his tent to greet them and bowed before them saying, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please do not pass by our tent. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves beneath this tree. As you have come to your faithful one, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves. Afterward, you may go on your way.”

“Very well,” they replied, “do as you have said.” Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick — take three measures of our best flour and knead it into loaves of bread.” Abraham then ran to the herd, selected a choice and tender calf, and sent a worker hurrying to prepare it. Then Abraham took cheese and milk and the calf which had been prepared and placed it before the travelers; and he waited on them under the tree while they ate. “Where is Sarah?” they asked. “There in the tent,” Abraham replied. One of them said, “I will surely return to you this time next year, and Sarah will then have a child.”

*(continued)*

Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent, just behind him. Now Sarah and Abraham were old, well on in years, and Sarah had ceased to have her periods. So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "Now that I am so old and my husband even older, is pleasure to come my way again?" YHWH said to Abraham, "Why does Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really deliver a child, at my age?' Is anything too extraordinary for God to do? At the appointed time, at this time next year, I will return to you, and Sarah will have a child"

**Second Reading** ~adapted from Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Second Moderator of UFMCC, in  
“Outing the Bible: Queer Folks, God, Jesus, and the Christian Scriptures.”

In June of 1972, I marched down Fifth Avenue with my lesbian friend Jean in one of New York's earliest Gay Pride parades. I'd only been out of the closet for three months. And there I was walking down Fifth Avenue next to Jill Johnston, author of *Lesbian Nation*. That day, we were at least 50,000 people: drag queens, leather queens, lesbian separatists—a raucous, irreverent, heart-pounding throng. We marched breathing fire and freedom. As we moved up Fifth Avenue, I fell in love with this movement. Whatever part of me that still had doubts, still wondered if I was not just in love with this one particular woman—just a phase, a fluke—evaporated in the steamy June New York Sunday afternoon heat. Everyone smiled at everyone; we delighted in one another, no strangers among us. It felt like my tribal initiation. I knew we were all made in the image of God.

## Reflection Biblically Hot

“...the Hottest Part of the Day....”

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 & Lee Shadwick

## Invitation To The Table

## Consecration & Words of Institution

## Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

## Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing

Community Blessing Rev. Emma Chat

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## Postlude

# Go in Peace