

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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

*Celebrating 41 Years*

*Second Sunday in Lent March 5, 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

Ellis Fraser

One: Not only in glorious cathedrals or in humble churches,

**Many: Spirit moves, breathes, and sings in the human heart;**

One: Like the wind, the breath of the earth, it moves everywhere,  
No one knows where it comes from or where it goes;

**Many: Whispering through the instruments of our souls,  
speaking in sighs too deep for words,**

**All: And calling with a still small voice within.**

Prayers of the Community

First Reading ~ John 3:1-12

Jen Yi

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. “Rabbi,” he said, “we know you’re a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God.” Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: “The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the dominion of God.” Nicodemus said, “How can an adult be born a second time? I can’t go back into my mother’s womb to be born again!” Jesus replied, “The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God’s dominion without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So don’t be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be possible?” asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, “You’re a teacher of Israel, and you still don’t understand these matters? The truth of the matter is, we’re talking about what we know; we’re testifying about what we’ve seen—yet you don’t accept our testimony. If you don’t believe when I tell you about earthly things, how will you believe when I tell you about heavenly things?”

**Second Reading** ~ *adapted from Margaret Wheatly in "Turning to One Another"*

I think it's important to begin a conversation by listening as best you can for what's different, for what surprises you. Sometimes we hesitate to listen for what's different because we don't want to change. We're comfortable with our lives, and if we listened to anyone who raised questions, then we might feel compelled to engage in new activities and new ways of thinking. Yet most of us do see things in our lives and in the world that we would like to be different. If that's true, then it means we need to listen more, not less, and we have to be willing to move into the very uncomfortable place of uncertainty. We may simply fear the confusion that comes with new ideas in unsettled forms. But we can't be creative if we refuse to be confused. Change always starts with confusion; we must be willing to be disturbed, to let go of certainty, and cherished interpretations must dissolve to make way for what's new. Great ideas and inventions miraculously appear in the space of not knowing. If we can move through the fear of being disturbed and enter the abyss, we are rewarded greatly.

**Song of Response**      **Help Us Accept Each Other**      **No. 388**

**Reflection**

**Conversations In The Shadows**

**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 ~ Rev. Emma Chattin**

**Closing Song**

**Every Time I Feel The Spirit**

**No. 282**

**Benediction & Sending Forth**

**Rev. Emma Chattin**

**Postlude**

❧ **Go in Peace** ❧