

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

**March 30, 2025**

**Lent IV**

*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.*

**Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”   Celebrating 43 Years of Being Out in Northern Virginia**

***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

**Illumination**

**Tee**

**Prayers of the Community**

**Starlene Keppel**

**Choir Response**

**Spirit of the Living God**

**First Reading** ~ *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

**Fab Fernandez**

Now the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!”

Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to their father, ‘Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.’ So the father divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living.

“After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. Coming to his senses at last, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I will quit and go back home and say, “I have sinned against God and you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ With that, the younger son set off for home.

“While he was still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.’ But his father said to one of the workers, ‘Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and butcher it. Let’s eat and celebrate! This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he’s found! And the celebration began.

“Now the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. The worker answered, ‘Your brother is home, and the fatted calf has been butchered because your father has him back safe and sound.’

“Then the elder son got angry at this and refused to go in to the celebration, but his father came out and pleaded with him. The elder son replied, ‘Look! For years now I have done every single thing you’ve asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends.

*(cont.)*

But then this son of yours comes home, after going through your money with loose living, and you butchered the fatted calf for him! "But my child!" the father said. 'You're with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead, and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found."

## Second Reading

~ adapted from Barbara Brown Taylor in "An Alter in the World: A geography of Faith"

Anything can become a spiritual practice once you are willing to approach it that way— once you let it bring you to your knees and show you what is real, including who you really are, who other people are, and how near God can be when you have lost your way. Once, when I took the wrong train to the New York Botanical Gardens and ended up walking through a pretty scary neighborhood in the Bronx, a bus driver stopped and opened his doors just for me. "I... I don't have the right change," I said, my eyes huge with fear. "Get in," he said. God drove a bus in the Bronx that day.

Response

Amazing Grace

Insert

Reflection

Wilderness Training  
Lost & Found

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering  
by Dwight Liles

Vanessa Lambert

MCC NoVA Choir

## ❖ Welcome To The Table! ❖

Kurt Jaeger

*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 Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

No. 23

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❖ Go in Peace ❖