

# 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.*

**September 29, 2024**

***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**

**Gathering Words** ~ *adapted from Lorelei Greenwood-Jones*

**Fab Fernandez**

One: We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation,  
and need to be recalled to our best selves.

**Many:** *We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose,  
and cannot do it alone.*

One: We need one another in the hour of success  
when we look for someone to share our triumphs.

**Many:** *We need one another in the hour of defeat, when, with encouragement,  
we might endure, and rise once more.*

One: All of our lives we are in need of others,

**All:** *And others are in need of us.*

**Prayers of the Community**

**Dale Bradshaw**

**First Reading** ~ *Mark 6:1-13*

**Genevieve Walker**

After leaving that place, Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, and said, “Where did he learn all this all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” They found these things to be stumbling blocks. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could work no miracles there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people, healing them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick healed them.

## Second Reading ~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "The Way of the Prophet"

A prophet is one who keeps God free for people and who keeps people free for God. It is a two-sided task. The prophet is committed to the covenant of love between humanity and the Divine -- at all costs -- and keeping God totally free (accessible, available) for people. That is a very hard thing to do, because, at least in the Bible, the priestly class invariably makes God less accessible instead of more so. The priestly mentality tends to say, "You can only come to God through us, and by doing the right rituals, and obeying the rules."

The other half of the prophet's job is to keep people free for God. People get trapped in chains of guilt and low self-esteem, what they judge to be poor performance and less than perfect behavior. As if the goal of religion is the performance of an occasional ritual instead of constant participation in an Eternal Mystery!

God is always breaking God's own rules to get to us, to change this situation, to transform this event. If you are honest about the text, this should be clear. You do realize, I hope, that every time God forgives, God is breaking God's own rules, and saying that relationship with YOU matters more than God being right. I would base my life on that assertion.

## Song of Response

No.

## Reflection

**It Takes Two**  
(at least)

Rev. Emma Chattin

## Community Dialogue

## Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

## Offertory

**We Are An Offering**  
by Dwight Liles

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

No.

## Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

## Postlude

❖ **Go in Peace** ❖