

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

May 25, 2025

Easter VI

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 44 Years of Being Out in Northern Virginia

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change Without Notice

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

Dale Bradshaw

Choir Response

Alleluia

Choir

First Reading ~ Acts 9:1-21

Fab Fernandez

Meanwhile Saul continued to breathe murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus. He had gone up to the temple authority and asked for letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way that he could find, both women and men. As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed about him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you?" Saul asked. The voice answered, "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, where you will be told what to do." Those traveling with him were speechless. They heard the voice, but could see no one. Saul got up from the ground unable to see, even though his eyes were open. They had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. For three days he continued to be blind, during which time he ate and drank nothing.

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. Christ appeared to him in a vision, saying, "Ananias." Ananias said, "Here I am." Then Christ said to him, "Go at once to Straight Street, and at the house of Judah ask for a certain Saul of Tarsus. He is there praying. Saul had a vision that a man named Ananias will come and lay hands on him so that he would recover his sight." But Ananias protested, "I have heard from many sources about this Saul and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. He is here now with authorization from the temple authorities to arrest everybody who calls on your name." Christ said to Ananias, "Go anyway. Saul is the instrument I have chosen to bring my Name to Gentiles, to rulers, and to the people of Israel. I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer for my name." With that Ananias left. When he entered the house, he laid his hands on Saul, saying, "Saul, my brother, I have been sent by Jesus Christ, who appeared to you on the way here, to help you recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized, and his strength returned after he had eaten some food. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days, and soon began proclaiming in the synagogues that Jesus was the Messiah.

(continued)

Everyone who heard Saul was amazed. They said, "Isn't this the one who wiped out those in Jerusalem who called on the name of Jesus. Didn't Saul come here just so he could bring them in chains before the temple authorities?"

Second Reading ~ adapted from father Richard Rohr

Margot Scheiffley

An epiphany is not an idea. As the British American author D. H. Lawrence said, people can do anything they want with an idea, but a truly new experience changes everything. Before you can do anything with it, it does something with you!

Most of us are afraid of any authentically new experience.

New experiences change us, and human beings do not like to change.

An epiphany is not a new experience that we can create from within, but one that we can only be open to and receive from another. Epiphanies turn us around and leave us totally out of control, and they always demand that we change. We would rather have objectified religion, which leaves us potentially in control and never having to change at all.

Response

I Will Trust in the Lord

No. 416

Reflection

TURNAROUND

Epiphany On The Way to Damascus

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

by Dwight Liles

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Kurt Jaeger & Ken Williamson

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

When The Spirit Says Do

Insert

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧