

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

March 15, 2026 Lent IV

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 44 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.

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

Gathering Music

Jorge Martinez

Welcome & Announcements

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

Song of Response

Choir

First Reading ~ 1 Samuel 16:1-13

YHWH said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have not chosen him to be ruler of Israel. Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. For I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have chosen my ruler from among his children.” But Samuel replied, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, I will be murdered.” YHWH replied, “Take a heifer with you: I am sending you to Jesse. Tell him you came to offer a sacrifice to YHWH, and invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do.” Samuel did what YHWH said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met Samuel. They asked, “Do you come in peace?” Samuel said, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to YHWH. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his children and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, and Samuel saw Eliab, he thought, “Surely God’s anointed now stands here before YHWH.” But YHWH said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have not chosen him. YHWH does not see as mortals see; mortals see only outward appearances. YHWH sees into the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, to pass before Samuel, who said, “No. YHWH has not chosen this one.” Next came Shammah, but Samuel said, “Not this one either.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “YHWH has not chosen any of these.” Samuel asked, “Are all your sons here?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse said, “but he is keeping the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until the lad arrives.” So they sent for the boy, a ruddy youth with bright eyes and handsome to behold. YHWH said, “Rise and anoint this one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed the boy in the presence of his brothers; and from that day forward the spirit of YHWH came mightily upon David and was with him. Then Samuel set out on his way to Ramah.

Second Reading

~ adapted from John Pavlovitz in “The Second Coming of the Progressive Heretical Jesus”

Jesus was a progressive. He came with bold, clear vision, not with vague religious nostalgia. He started a revolutionary underground movement, not a top-down theocracy of privilege. And he didn’t harken back to some mythical glorious time in the past. He said that Heaven had come now- a new counterintuitive way of living and of being in the world marked by goodness.

(continued)

And Jesus was a heretic. He was the Anointed One, but he did not come as a mighty political power, as many were expecting; not as an armed, avenging soldier, but as a humble, suffering servant who would get low to lift up others. He came in paradox as the God who would wash feet.

Jesus declared us all responsible for each other, our neighbors, even our enemies. He was a maker of peace who said that love of wealth would make it almost impossible to really see God or to live well. And now, two thousand years later, the work of revealing the character of God is once again in the hands of heretics, sinners, and unlikely mercy-givers. Perhaps these years will be remembered as the years Christianity died in the exclusive American Church and was resurrected in the streets among the heathens and backsliders. Just as Jesus first came in a form that was blasphemous and scandalous to the bloated religious elite of his time, so Jesus is coming again in a way that is not expected, but is no less revelatory about the breadth of the love of God.

Song of Response If You But Trust in God to Guide You No. 410

Reflection

Did Not See That One Coming

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ Welcome To The Table! ☛

Kurt Jaeger and 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

We Would Be Building

No. 607

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☛