

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 42 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.*

**March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday**

***Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change***

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Gathering Music

Jorge Martinez

PROCESSION

***All Are Invited to Join in Song!***

No. 233

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 Richard S. Gilbert*

One: A tomb is no place to stay,  
Be it a cave in the Judean hills  
Or a dark cavern of the Spirit.

***Many: A tomb is no place to stay  
when fresh flowers roll away the cold stone of winter.***

One: A tomb is no place to stay  
when morning announces another day of living.

***Many: A tomb is no place to stay when life laughs a welcome.***

One: The dawn has come, spring is here,  
the stone is rolled away and the promise of new life revealed.

***All: Let us leave behind our tombs  
and celebrate resurrection together!***

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *John 20:1-9*

Genevieve Walker

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Rabbi out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Second Reading ~ adapted from Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B., in "Easter Calls Us to Resurrection"

The old news about Easter is that it is about resurrection. The new news may be that it is not so much about the resurrection of Jesus as it is about our own. Jesus, you see, is already gone from the tomb. The only question now is whether or not we are willing to abandon our own, leave the old trappings behind and live in the light of Jesus, the Christ, whom the religious establishment persecuted and politicians condemned. It is the greatest question of them all.

The resurrection to which Easter calls us — our own — requires that we prepare to find God where God is by opening ourselves to the world around us with a listening ear. That means that we must be prepared to be surprised by God in strange places, in ways we never thought we'd see and through the words of those we never thought we'd hear. We must reach out to them in order to discern what visions to see with them, what cries to cry for them, what stones to move from the front of their graves -- as well as our own.

Song of Response      This Is a Day of New Beginnings      No. 417

Reflection

Where In The World?

*(not in a tomb)*

Rev Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory      We Are An Offering      MCC NoVA Choir  
by Dwight Liles

✠ Welcome To The Table! ✠

Rev. Emma Chattin

Invitation To The Table

Consecration & Words of Institution

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing

Community Blessing ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song      Praise to the Living God      No. 8

Benediction and Sending Forth      Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

✠ Go in Peace ✠