

# 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.*

**July 21, 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 Amanda Udis-Kessler*

Fab Fernandez

One: This morning, as all mornings, we are called to pay attention.

**Many: We are called to pay attention to the natural world around us.**

One: Today and all days, we are called to pay attention.

**Many: We are called to pay attention to our individual lives, to our delights and disruptions.**

One: Throughout our lives, we are called to pay attention.

**Many: We are called to pay attention to the people in our lives,  
to celebrate their joys and be present with them in their struggles.**

One: In all that happens around us, we are called to pay attention.

**Many: We are called to pay attention to the society in which we live, to understand the  
way the lives of people we don't know are impacted by things foreign to us.**

One: We are called to pay attention to what we know and what we believe.

**ALL: In all things, we are called to pay attention.**

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Luke 12:54-59*

## Understanding The Times

Then Jesus turned to the crowd: “When you see clouds coming in from the west, you say, ‘It’s going to rain!’— and so it does. And when the wind comes out of the south, you say, ‘It’s going to be a hot one!’— and you’re right.

“Frauds! Hypocrites! You know how to interpret and read the appearance of the earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret and read the present time?”

“And why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? When you go with your accuser to court, make an effort to reach a settlement on the way, or you may be taken before a judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. I tell you, you won’t be released until you’ve paid every last penny.”

## Second Reading ~ *adapted from Isabel Allende*

I have lived with passion and in a hurry, trying to accomplish too many things. I never had time to think about my beliefs until my 28-year-old daughter Paula fell ill. She was in a coma for a year and I took care of her at home, until she died in my arms in December of 1992. Paralyzed and silent in her bed, my daughter Paula taught me a lesson that is now my mantra: You only have what you give. I had to throw overboard all excess baggage and keep only what is essential. Because of Paula, I don't cling to anything anymore. Now I like to give much more than to receive. I am happier when I love than when I am loved. I adore my spouse, my son, my grandchildren, my mother, my dog, and frankly I don't know if they even like me. But who cares? Loving them is my joy. Give, give, give—what is the point of having experience, knowledge, or talent if you don't give it away? Of having stories if you don't tell them to others? Of having wealth if I don't share it? I don't intend to be buried or cremated with any of it!

It is in giving that I connect with others, with the world and with the divine. It is in giving that I feel the spirit of my daughter, a soft presence within.

## Song of Response

### Reflection

### Biblically Hot

“...It's Going To Be a Hot One....”

Rev Emma Chattin

### Community Dialogue

### Offering Invitation

### Offertory

We Are An Offering  
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ Welcome To The Table! ☛  
Rev. Emma Chattin & Lee Shadwick

Invitation To The Table  
Consecration & Words of Institution  
Sharing The Open Meal of Christ  
Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing

Community Blessing Rev. Emma Chattin

### Closing Song

### Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

### Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☛