

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.

August 11, 2024

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change

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 ~ *Sayings of Jesus, from MATTHEW*

Fab Fernandez

One: You are the light of the world.

Many: A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.

One: Blessed are the humble, for the dominion of heaven is theirs.

Many: Blessed are those who work for peace, for they shall be called Children of God.

One: Forgive others and you shall be forgiven.

ALL: Change your hearts and your minds for the dominion of heaven is near!

Prayers of the Community

Margot Scheiffley

First Reading ~ *Matthew 4:12-17*

Genevieve Walker

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum, by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophesy of Isaiah was fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles (the peoples not of Israel), the people who sat in night have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the land of shadow and death, light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent (change your hearts and minds, turn around), for the dominion of heaven is near!"

"The dominion of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." (Matthew 13:33)

"The dominion of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. (Matthew 13:44)

"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When one was found of great value, the merchant went away and sold everything else and bought it. (Matthew 13:45-46)

Second Reading ~ adapted from Eugene Peterson in “Every Step Is An Arrival”

God is not a stolid, immovable principle of being. God has not set up mechanical laws of human existence that are going to be carried out impersonally and fatalistically. The universe God created is full of possibility, full of freedom, full of surprise. God is alive in all of this— changing, responding, redeeming, working continuously in it.

God has not ordered the details of your life so that they will come to pass regardless of what you do. You are a person, and God respects you as such. You can change— respond, initiate, create. And as you do, God— who is always living in personal reaction and present grace — changes, responds, initiates, and creates. There are several verses that mention God repenting. And when we talk of God repenting, we are saying that God changes, moves with the situation, redeems what has gone wrong.

God is not bound to a pattern. God is not committed to a blueprint. If people respond in new ways to the presence of God, then God will respond in creative new ways to them.

Song of Response **Savior, Let Me Walk With You** **No. 503**

Reflection **Who Was / Is Jesus?**
The Bearer of Good News
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 & Lee Shadwick
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 ❖