

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

November 26, 2023

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 entry of the Sanctuary if you would like to make your Offering Donation via credit card.

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

Genevieve Walker

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Resources in a Mennonite Voice for Ears of All Kinds*

Tee

One: We sometimes forget how to say thank you;

Many: We get used to saying I earned this, and I deserve this.

One: We are sometimes too jealous to be thankful;

Many: We compare ourselves to others who have more, rarely to those who have less.

One: We are often too busy to be thankful;

**Many: We asked ourselves this morning, ‘Do I have time to come to church?
Even in worship our minds are sometimes busy and distracted.**

One: We are sometimes too tired to be thankful;

Many: We have no energy to open our eyes to the blessings all around us.

One: Sometimes we are not thankful enough to be generous;

**Many: Rather than being generous today, we bargain with God,
‘I’ll give more when I get more’.**

One: We sometimes say the words without feeling any gratitude in our hearts;

Many: We don’t really know how to feel thankful.

One: And so today we say a simple prayer for all that we have received;

Many: Make us truly thankful, let us be filled today with thanksgiving and gratitude.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Malachi 3:10-12*

Leigh Anne Arnold

Bring the entire tithe, the whole tenth of your bounty, into the storehouse that there may be food in my house! Prove me now in this, says YHWH, and see if I do not open the windows of heaven and pour so much blessing out on you that you cannot contain it! I will keep pests from destroying the produce of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says YHWH. All people will call you happy and blessed, for yours will be a delightful land.

Second Reading ~ adapted from Barbara Brown Taylor in “Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith”

People seem willing to look all over the place for their treasure. They will spend hours launching prayers into the heavens. They will travel halfway around the world to visit a monastery in India or to take part in a mission trip to Belize. The last place most people look is right under their feet, in the everyday activities, accidents, and encounters of their lives. What possible spiritual significance could a trip to the grocery store have? How could something as common as a stranger asking for directions be a door to greater life? No one longs for what they already have, and yet the accumulated insight of those wise about the spiritual life suggests that the reason so many of us cannot see the red X that marks the spot is because we are standing on it. The treasure we seek requires no lengthy expedition, no expensive equipment, no superior aptitude. All we lack is the willingness to imagine that we already have everything we need. The only thing missing is our consent to be where we are.

Song of Response

Reflection

Thanks Giving

Harvest Home

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Why I Give

Kate Gilligan

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ 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

Come O Thankful People Come

No. 422

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧