

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

April 19, 2026 Easter III

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”
Celebrating 45 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

Andrea Albamonte

Song of Response

Choir

First Reading ~ *John 20:19-31*

Fab Fernandez

When it was evening on that same day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the room where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Temple authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." It happened that Thomas (nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Christ." Thomas' answer was, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later the disciples were again in the room, and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then to Thomas, Jesus said, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!" Jesus then said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Holy One of God, and that through believing you may have newness of life.

Second Reading

Margot Scheiffley

~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "The Universal Christ"

Jesus invited Thomas and all doubters into a tangible religion, a religion that makes touching human pain and suffering the way into both compassion and understanding. For most of us, touching of another's wound probably feels like an act of kindness. We don't realize that its full intended effect is to change us as much (if not more) than it might change the one whose pain we touch (there is no indication that Jesus changed, only Thomas). Empathy is the best and easiest way to open the heart space and to make us experience new life inside our own bodies. God never intended most human beings to become philosophers or theologians, but God does want all humans to represent the very compassion and empathy of God. And it's okay if it takes us a while to get there.

Song of Response

Let It Breathe on Me

No. 288

Reflection

Touched By a Feeling

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ Welcome To The Table! ☜

Kurt Jaeger

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

For The Beauty of the Earth

No. 28

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☜