

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

February 9, 2025

Epiphany VI

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.

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 43 Years of Being Out in Northern Virginia

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

Prayers of the Community

Starlene Keppel

First Reading ~ Luke 5:1-11

Fab Fernandez

One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats moored at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and continued to teach the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Rabbi, we have been working all night long and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I will lower the nets.' Upon doing so, they caught so many fish that their nets were at the breaking point. So they signaled to their friends in the other boat to come and help them, and together they filled the two boats until both nearly sank. After Simon Peter saw what happened, he was filled with awe and fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Leave me Rabbi, for I am a sinner'. For Simon and his shipmates were amazed at the size of the catch they had made, as were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishing for people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Second Reading

Denise Carson

*~from President Barak Obama awarding the National Medal of Freedom to Bayard Rustin,
accepted by his partner, Walter Naegle*

Now, early in the morning the day of the March on Washington, the National Mall was far from full and some in the press were beginning to wonder if the event would be a failure. But the march's chief organizer, Bayard Rustin, didn't panic. As the story goes, he looked down at a piece of paper, looked back up, and reassured reporters that everything was right on schedule. The only thing those reporters didn't know was that the paper he was holding was blank. He didn't know how it was going to work out, but Bayard had an unshakable optimism, nerves of steel, and, most importantly, a faith that if the cause is just and people are together, nothing can stand in our way.

Third Reading

Sarah Huggins

~from Father Richard Rohr in "Keep Changing: The Four Gospels, and What It Means to Follow Jesus"

Immediately after the temptation in the desert, Jesus goes out to Galilee and there he begins to preach. His initial preaching is summed up in the verse, "Repent, for the dominion of God is at hand". What does the word "repent" mean? First of all, it doesn't mean to beat ourselves up or to feel bad about ourselves. "Repent" (metanoia in Greek) means to turn around, to change. The first word that comes out of Jesus' mouth is change!

People who are not willing to change are not willing to turn away from themselves. What we're in love with usually is not God. We're in love with our way of thinking, our way of explaining, our way of doing. But the great traditions always call people on a journey of faith to keep changing. There's no other way this human personality can open up to all that God is asking of us, all we have to learn, all we have to experience. The best protection from the next word of God is the last word of God. We take what we heard from God last year and we build a whole system around it, and then we sit there for the rest of our lives. Jesus not only says change, but keep changing.

Response You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore No. 173

Reflection A Different Way
Out of the Ordinary

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Ken Williamson

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 Ken Williamson

Closing Song Called As Partners in Christ's Service No. 495

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧