

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

March 16, 2025

Lent II

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

Dale Bradshaw

Community Reading ~ *adapted from Kalidasa*

Genevieve Walker

One: We look to this day;

Many: It is where life happens.

One: Its brief course contains the truth of your existence,

Many: And a direction for the journey;

One: The discomfort of growth, the strength to move past fear,

Many: The glory of action, the splendor of beauty.

One: Yesterday is past,

Many: And tomorrow is only a vision.

One: Yet today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,

Many: And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

One: We journey together with the Spirit.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Choir Response

Spirit of the Living God

First Reading ~ *Luke 13:31-35*

Vanessa Lambert

Just then, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “You need to get out of town, and fast, Herod is trying to kill you.” Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘Today and tomorrow, I’ll be casting out demons and healing people, and on the third day I’ll reach my goal.’ Even with all that, I’ll need to continue on with my journey today, tomorrow, and the day after that, since no prophet can be allowed to die anywhere except Jerusalem. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I wanted to gather your children together as a mother bird collects her babies under her wings- yet you refuse me! So take note: your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!”

Second Reading

~ adapted from Sister Joan Chittister OSB & Rowan Williams in "Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia For All That Is"

Clearly, the future is many things at once. It is the vessel into which we pour all of our hopes and all of our fears. "When all else is lost," Christian Bovee says, "the future still remains." The problem is that future is an opportunity for some and a threat to others. It is at the edge of the future that we walk off a cliff into the arms of God. The spiritual challenge of the future resides in being able to accept it before we even know it. But accepting the future before we even know what it is becomes one of the central problems of life. Rather than embrace the unknown, we all too often stumble along from one fear to another.

Response Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless No. 461

Reflection Wilderness Training

Focus Over Fear
Direction Over Despair

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

Jamie Wallace

MCC NoVA Choir

❖ Welcome To The Table! ❖

Kurt Jaeger & 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 Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song God's Eye Is on the Sparrow No. 458

Benediction and Sending Forth Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❖ Go in Peace ❖