

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**
Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”
Celebrating 42 Years
Easter IV April 30, 2023

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

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from The Metta Sutta (Loving Kindness)* Jamie Wallace

One: Let us cultivate boundless goodwill,

Many: *Let none deceive another, or despise any being in any condition.*

One: Let none in anger or ill-will wish another harm.

Many: *Even as a parent watches over their child,
so with boundless mind should one cherish all living beings,*

One: Radiating and shining kindness over the whole world,

Many: *Above, below, and all around without limit.*

Prayers of the Community Frank Vance

First Reading ~ *Psalm 23* Ellis Fraser

YHWH, you are my shepherd--I want nothing more.

You let me lie down in green meadows;

you lead me beside restful waters;

you refresh my soul.

You guide me to lush pastures

for the sake of your Name.

Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,

I fear no danger, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff--

they give me courage.

You spread a table for me

in the presence of my enemies,

and you anoint my head with oil--

my cup overflows!

Only goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in your house, YHWH,

for days without end.

Second Reading*~Acts 2:42-47***Leigh Anne Arnold**

They devote themselves to the apostles' instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles. Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need. They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

Third Reading ~*from Octavia Butler, epigram for Parable of the Trickster (never published)*

There's nothing new
under the sun,
but there are new suns.

Song of Response**God's Eye is on the Sparrow****No. 475****Reflection****But There Are Other Suns**

Rev. Lori McPherson

Community Dialogue**Offering Invitation****Marcie Babey****Offertory****We Are An Offering**
by Dwight Liles**MCC NoVA Choir****❖ Welcome To The Table! ❖**

Rev. Lori McPherson

Invitation To The Table

Consecration & Words of Institution

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing ~ Rev. Lori McPherson

Closing Song**This Little Light of Mine****No. 524**

*This little light of mine...
Everywhere I go...
All through the night...
This little light of mine...*

Benediction & Sending Forth**Rev. Lori McPherson****Postlude****❖ Go in Peace ❖**