

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

July 26, 2026

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

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

Choir Response

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from a Capital Pride Service*

Susan McGlohn

One: How good it is to gather together —

Many: *in the house of a God Who transcends human limits and categories!*

One: How good it is to gather together in a colorful rainbow of affections —

Many: *in the house of a God who loves each of us as we are created!*

One: How good it is to gather together with people who may have different beliefs —

Many: *In the house of a God who values caring deeds far above creeds!*

One: How good it is to gather together —

ALL: *in the house of a God who hears the prayers of all people!*

First Reading ~ *Genesis 37:2-3, 18-20, 23-24, 28-32*

Ken Williamson

When Joseph was 17 years old, he used to accompany his brothers as they herded the flocks. Joseph would tattle on the others to his father, Jacob, while they tended the animals, always presenting them in a negative light. Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any of the others, and gave Joseph a *ketonet passim* (a richly ornamented and very colorful garment with long flowing sleeves). When the brothers saw that Jacob loved him best, they were jealous, and had nothing but words of contempt for the boy.

They saw Joseph approaching in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to murder him. They said to one another, “Here comes that dreamer. Now’s our chance! Let’s kill him and throw his body into one of these pits. We’ll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams!” So when Joseph came upon his brothers, they stripped him of his colorful *ketonet passim*, and picked him up and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty. There was no water in it. Meanwhile, some Midianite traders passed by and pulled Joseph out of the pit. They sold him for 8 ounces of silver to an Ishmaelite caravan, who took Joseph with them to Egypt. When Reuben came back to the pit to rescue Joseph, he found Joseph gone, and he tore his clothes in grief. Returning to the others, Reuben said, “The boy is gone! Now what will I do? What will become of me?”

So they took Joseph’s *ketonet passim*, slaughtered a goat, and dipped it in blood. They took the *ketonet passim* and brought it to Israel (Jacob) saying, “Look what we found! Do you recognize it? Is it Joseph’s?”

Second Reading

Kat Velkoff

~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "Following The Mystics: Seeing God in All Things"

Permission is what makes mystics sort of dangerous. It's the permission to color outside the lines. It's permission to be who they really are. It's not just LGBT people who have to come out of the closet - we're all in our closets. They've just provided a good metaphor for what we all have to do. We're all afraid to come out of our various enclosures. This liberation is not a need to be outrageous or rebellious. It's so much better than that! It is permission to be "the image and the likeness of God" that you already are! A gift of wider dreams! God is saying to each of us, "All I want is for you to return to me, the Sender, who you really are!" Ironically, it takes most of our life to find that True Self, to accept it, and then to return it to the Maker — now with our own signature attached.

Response Song In The Midst of New Dimensions

No. 391

Reflection Finding Ourselves in the Bible
Color Outside The Lines

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Ken Williamson and Heather James

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

Sing of Colors

No.402

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧