

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

August 20, 2023

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”
Celebrating 42 Years of Pride*

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

Kurt Jaeger

Centering

At the sound of the singing bowl,
please take a few moments to prepare yourself for our worship together

Illumination

Tee

Gathering Words *~ adapted from Robert Weston*

Jamie Wallace

One: Out of the stars in their flight, out of the dust of eternity, here we have come,

Many: Stardust and sunlight mingling through time and space.

One: Out of the stars we have come, up through time;

**Many: This is the wonder of time, this is the marvel of space;
out of the stars swung the earth, life on the earth rose to love.**

One: This is the marvel of life, rising to see and know;

**Many: Out of our hearts we cry out in wonder,
we sing and give thanks that we live!**

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading *~ Genesis 15:1-6*

Leigh Anne Arnold

After these events, the word of YHWH came to Abram in a vision:

"Fear not, Abram! I am your shield;
I will make your reward very great."

Abram said, "But my Sovereign, my God, what good are these blessings to me, so long as Sarai and I will die in disgrace? My only heir is a foreigner who lives in my household, Eliezer of Damascus. Since you have given me no offspring," Abram continued, "an attendant in my house will be my heir."

Then the word of YHWH came to Abram and said, "This person will not be your heir. Your heir will be of your own flesh and blood." Then God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can! As many as that, you will have for descendants." Abram believed YHWH, and God accounted it to Abram as righteousness.

Second Reading~ *Hebrews 11:1-3*

Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen. Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God. By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word from God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

Song of Response

Reflection

Life is a Journey
There's a Million Stars in the Twinklin' Sky
Rev. Lori McPherson

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation Lee Shadwick

Offertory **We Are An Offering** MCC NoVA Choir
by Dwight Liles

❖ Welcome To The Table! ❖

Rev. Lori McPherson
Invitation To The Table
Consecration & Words of Institution
Sharing The Open Meal of Christ
Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing

Community Blessing ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

Benediction and Sending Forth Rev. Lori McPherson

Postlude

❖ Go in Peace ❖