

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 43 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.*

**September 22, 2024**

*Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change*

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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

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Lorelei Greenwood-Jones*

Fab Fernandez

One: In this sacred place, we are not alone.

**Many: *We are a community of individuals, each living our own lives, yet coming together now and then in joyous celebration of Spirit and one another.***

One: Our differences do not divide us, rather they are a source of interest and discovery. We need not think alike to love alike.

**Many: *Here our hearts are filled. We hear wisdom. We learn from one another.***

One: In this sacred place, may we be grounded in love and sharing.

**All: *May our actions and words echo what we learn here.***

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a*

Starlene Keppel

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. The wisdom from above, however, has purity as its essence; peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these conflicts and battles among you start? Isn't it that they come from the desires at war within you? You want something but don't get it, so you're prepared to kill to get it. You have ambitions that you can't satisfy, so you fight to get your way by force. The reason that you don't have what you want is that you don't ask for it in prayer. And when you do ask and don't get it, it's because you haven't prayed properly. You have prayed in order to indulge and satisfy yourself.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and it will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

## Second Reading ~ adapted from Paula Gunn Allen

Tribal people say words are sacred. We don't mean that you are supposed to kneel down and worship them. We mean that you should recognize that when you speak, your utterance has consequences, inwardly and outwardly, and that you are accountable for those consequences. You can't just say anything that comes into your head and then get distressed if another person acts on it. Of course, that other person may have misunderstood you, which means that they have a responsibility to find out exactly what you meant before they act, but the principle is still there. Without linguistic honor there can be no community, there can be no ethic, there can be no love, there can be no creative vision, there can be no peace, and there can be no relationship.

Song of Response

No.

Reflection

Back To School ~ Practicing What We Preach

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering  
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ Welcome To The Table! ☞  
Kurt Jaeger

*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

No.

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☞