

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

March 1, 2025

Epiphany IX

*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*

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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

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ Isaiah 56:1-8

Ken Williamson

Thus says YHWH: “Do what is right! Work for justice! For my liberation is about to come, and my justice is about to be revealed.”

Happy is the person who does this, and happy is the person who holds to it- who observes the Sabbath and does not profane it, and refrains from doing any evil. Foreigners who would follow YHWH should not say, “YHWH will surely exclude me from this people.” Nor should the eunuch say, “I am just a dried-up tree.” For thus says YHWH: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbath, and who choose that which pleases me and hold fast to my Covenant- to them I will create within my Temple and its walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who join themselves to me ministering to me, loving the name of YHWH and worshiping me- all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it, and cling to my Covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples!”

Thus says the Sovereign YHWH, who gathers the outcasts and scattered of Israel: “There are others I will gather besides those already gathered.”

Second Reading

Genevieve Walker

*~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in “If We Were Christian”*

The practice of Christianity has been avoided, denied, minimized, ignored, delayed, and sidelined for too many centuries, by too many Christians who were never told that Christianity was anything more than a belonging or belief system. And we each only belonged to our own little club or denomination at that. Many of us were afraid to set foot into a church of a different denomination for fear of eternal punishment. Of course, now we know that there is no Methodist or Catholic way of loving. There is no Orthodox or Presbyterian way of living a simple and nonviolent life. There is no Lutheran or Evangelical way of showing mercy. There is no Baptist or Episcopalian way of visiting the imprisoned. If there is, then we are invariably emphasizing the details, which distract us from the big truths and the very heart of the Gospel, as St. Francis called it.

## Third Reading

Margot Sheiffley

~ adapted from Nevada Barr in "Seeking Enlightenment Hat By Hat: A Skeptic's Path to Religion"

The mountain is for finding and adoring God in the wilderness. Church is for finding and adoring God in community: with others, through others, because of others, and in spite of others. Only by finding this place of human interaction, focused around the need for the spiritual, was I able to recognize God in other people, and so in myself. Without community, how would I learn to share? Who would I help? How would I learn to accept help? Community is God rubbing elbows and passing the tuna casserole, a place where we can snuggle down with the Divine. Though I'd never have suspected it when I began this spiritual journey, God is not separate from people. Sure we're hypocrites, liars, boasters, blasphemers, and cheats, but we are God's hypocrites, liars, boasters, blasphemers, and cheats. The spark is in each of us. When we work together for what we sincerely hope is good, worship together in the belief we will touch God, sing together in the hope God hears our praises, then the spark is fanned, and God becomes as visible in us as God is in new snow, or a sunrise, or in a mountain lake.

Response                      In Christ There Is No East or West                      No. 395

Reflection                      A Different Way

TOGETHER

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

by Dwight Liles

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

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 Ken Williamson

Closing Song                      We Love Your Realm, O God                      No. 312

Benediction and Sending Forth                      Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧