

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Celebrating 41 Years*  
*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”*      *September 18, 2022*

*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

## Gathering Words Lee Shadwick

~ adapted from Neale Donald Walsch in "Conversations With God"

One: God is ever present and constantly speaking to us.

**Many: God speaks to us through our experiences, our feelings, and nature,**

One: And through all that is around us, and through the still small voice within.

**Many: Yet all too often we are *listening to other voices in our thoughts.***

One: God is ever present and constantly speaking to us.

**ALL:** *May we be evermore receptive to God's voice around us and God's movement within.*

## Community Prayers

Readings Darren Foster

## First Reading ~ *Psalm 8*

YHWH, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

You have placed your glory above the  
heavens!  
From the lips of infants and children  
you bring forth words of power and praise,  
to answer your adversaries  
and to silence the hostile and vengeful.

When I behold your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars which you set in place--  
what is humanity  
that you should be mindful of us?

Who are we that you should care for us?  
You have made us barely less than God,  
and crowned us with glory and honor.  
You have made us responsible  
for the works of your hands,  
putting all things at our feet--  
all sheep and oxen,  
yes, even the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea  
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

YHWH, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

(over)

## **Second Reading** ~ *from Suzanne Simard in “Finding the Mother”*

I started clearing trails through the forest surrounding our house. Tromping along paths created by animals. Getting to know the shady glades soft with moss, the moist hollows think with water birches, the grassy slopes where rabbits lived in holes left from rotting roots. The oldest trees and their broods growing in clutches nearby. I'd linger at the pup-tent-sized ant nest, thrumming with thousands of creatures, to watch some crawl single file before I struck out along the main route to the old pine, jumping over the streams carrying needles and lichens...

Plants are attuned to one another's strengths and weaknesses, elegantly giving and taking to attain exquisite balance. A balance that can also be achieved in the simple beauty of a garden. In the complex society of ants. There's grace in complexity, in actions cohering, in sum totals. We can find this in ourselves, in what we do alone, but also in what we enact together. Our own roots and systems interlace and tangle, grow into and away from one another and back again in a million subtle moments.

Response      MCC NoVA Choir & Community      No. TBA

## Reflection Conversations with the Divine

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 ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song      MCC NoVA Choir & Community      No. TBA

## Postlude

## Go in Peace