

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

August 3, 2025

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”
Celebrating 44 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

Preparation for Prayer In Song

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Genesis 8:1-12*

Fab Fernandez

God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were in the ark, and sent a mighty wind over all the earth so that the waters began to subside. The springs of the Deep and the windows of the heavens were closed up. The rain from the heavens stopped. The water covering the earth gradually dropped, until at the end of 150 days, it was gone. In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to go down until the tenth month. On the first day of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains came into view.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove, to see if the waters had subsided on the earth. The dove, finding no place to perch, returned to the ark, for there was still water over the whole earth. So he put out his hand and brought it back into the ark. Noah waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove came back in the evening, with a freshly plucked olive branch in its beak. Noah knew that the waters were receding from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

Second Reading

Margot Scheiffley

~ adapted from Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor in "An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith"

This is wonderful news. I do not have to choose between the Sermon on the Mount and the magnolia trees. God can come to me by a still pool on the big island of Hawaii as well as at the altar of the Washington National Cathedral. The House of God stretches from one corner of the universe to the other. Sea monsters and ostriches live in it, along with people who pray in languages I do not speak, whose names I will never know.

I am not in charge of this House, our Home, and never will be. I have no say about who is in and who is out. I do not get to make the rules. Like Job, I was nowhere when God laid the foundations of the earth. I cannot bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion. I do not even know when the mountain goats give birth, much less the ordinances of the heavens. I am a guest here, charged with serving other guests—even those who present themselves as my enemies. I am allowed to resist them, but as long as I trust in one God who made us all, I cannot act as if they are no kin to me. There is only one House. One Home. Human beings will either learn to live in it together or we will not survive to hear its sigh of relief when our numbered days are done. In biblical terms, it is compassion, empathy, and wisdom we need to live together in this world.

Response

Blue Boat Home

Insert

Reflection

Mountains of the Bible
We're All in This Together

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 & 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 Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

In the Midst of New Dimensions

No. 391

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧