

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.

August 18, 2024

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change

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 ~ *Sayings of Jesus, from MARK*

Fab Fernandez

One: It is easier for a camel to pass through the needle's eye
than a rich person to enter the dominion of God.

Many: *If anyone wants to be first, they must be last and servant of all.*

One: Everyone who has ears should use them!

Many: *Give unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, give unto God that which is God's.*

One: Love your neighbor as yourself.

ALL: *With God all things are possible!*

Prayers of the Community

First Reading ~ *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15*

Genevieve Walker

The Pharisees and some of the scribes (religious scholars) who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands- that is, without ritually washing them. For the Pharisees, and Jewish people in general, follow the traditions of their ancestors, and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow. Moreover, they never eat anything from the market without first sprinkling it. There are many other traditions which have been handed down to them, such as the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles. So these Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of our ancestors, but eat with unclean hands?" Jesus answered, "How accurately Isaiah prophesied about you hypocrites when he wrote: 'These people honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer is without worth; the doctrines they teach are only human precepts.' You disregard God's commandments and cling to human traditions."

Then he called to the crowd again and said, "Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand. Nothing that enters us from the outside makes us impure; it is what comes out of us that makes us impure."

Second Reading ~ *Mark 8:27-30*

Then he and the disciples set out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, Jesus asked the disciples this question: "Who do people say that I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptizer; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets." Jesus went on to ask, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are Christ!" But Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

Third Reading ~ adapted from Paula Fredriksen in *"From Jesus to Christ"*

A key item is Jesus' identity. Mark asks the Christological question: "Who do you say I am?" But his Jesus seems at pains to avoid answering it. When Peter in this passage responds, "You are the Christ!" Jesus does not acknowledge his answer but charges him to remain silent, as he earlier commanded demons who recognized him. Mark is scarcely more helpful. While he and his community clearly held Jesus to be the Christ and a Son of God, Mark neither defines nor develops either concept. Is Jesus the Christ because, either in life or in death, his deeds conformed to certain messianic prophecies.. assisted with creation.. reconciled God and man through his death... or a host of other possibilities? Mark never says.

Mark, and Mark's Jesus, give only one unambiguous answer to this crucial Christological question: Jesus is the Son of Humanity (the Son of Man, the Child of Humanity, the Human One). Even here, Mark does little to clarify the obscurity of this term, which originated in the old, Aramaic tradition. Beyond identifying this term with Jesus, Mark defines it not in terms of its content so much as its function: not what the Son of Humanity is, but he does.

Song of Response

No.

Reflection

Who Was / Is Jesus?

Who Do You Say I Am?

Rev Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Rev. Emma Chattin & Lee Shadwick

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

No.

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧