

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 42 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.*

**December 31, 2023 First Sunday After Christmas**

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

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Gathering Music

Masha Feygelson

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Emma Chatten

Centering

At the sound of the singing bowl,  
please take a few moments to prepare yourself for our worship together

Illumination

Geneieve Walker

Gathering Words ~ *from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

Tee

One: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

**Many: A time to be born, and a time to die;**

One: A time to hurt, and a time to heal,

**Many: A time to break down, and a time to build up;**

One: A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

**Many: A time to mourn, and a time to dance;**

One: A time to seek, and a time to lose;

**Many: A time to keep, and a time to throw away;**

One: A time to tear, and a time to sew;

**Many: A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;**

One: A time to love, and a time to hate;

**All: A time for war, and a time for peace.**

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Luke 2:25-35*

Leigh Anne Arnold

Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child, Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Now, O God, you are dismissing your servant in peace, just as you promised; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all peoples to see— a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.” As the child’s mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, “This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed— and a sword will pierce your heart as well.”

**Second Reading** ~ *from Maggi Dawn in "Second Thoughts"*

Encountering God in depth inevitably means that we have to unlearn a lot of ideas that are deeply ingrained in us, but which may be at odds with the truth. We draw our idea of God from a mixture of sources, often unconsciously; from childhood experiences, from media, from things we have heard or misheard in church, read or misread in the scriptures. This collection of ideas is the baggage we bring with us to faith, so that God becomes, in our experience, a mixture of truth and misconception. The God we expect to meet may not be the God we actually encounter.

Song of Response	What Child Is This?	No. 148
		Verses 1 & 2

Reflection	Mixed Blessing
	Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation	Jamie Wallace
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Offertory	We Are An Offering by Dwight Liles	MCC NoVA Choir
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✠ Welcome To The Table! ✠  
Rev. Emma Chattin

Invitation To The Table  
Consecration & Words of Institution  
Sharing The Open Meal of Christ  
Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing  
Community Blessing ~ Dale Bradshaw

Closing Song	Go Tell It On the Mountain	No. 154
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Benediction and Sending Forth	Rev. Emma Chattin
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Postlude

✠ Go in Peace ✠