

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent
World AIDS Day*

*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*

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

One: We light the first candle of Advent today to remind us to live expectantly,

Many: To keep kindled the warmth of hope within,

One: To create room for possibility, not privilege,

Many: *To make a place of expectation and preparation, wrapped in the glow of faith, hope, and humility;*

One: We also light a candle today to remember World AIDS Day,

Many: To help us continue to light the way

One: And carry with us the hope of a world someday without HIV and AIDS;

Many: *We remember those who have gone before, those who struggle now, and those within reach of prevention.*

One: May we hold all of these in our hearts today,

ALL: *As we pray that we may live by our hopes, and not by our fears, not by our words but by our deeds.*

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ Jeremiah 33:14-16

“The days are surely coming, says YHWH, when I will bestow upon the house of Israel and the house of Judah all the blessings I promised them. In those days and at that time I will raise up a righteous branch from the line of David, who will bring justice and integrity to the land. In those days Judah will be safe and Jerusalem will be secure. They will call the land, ‘YHWH is our Justice.’”

Second Reading ~ adapted from Cynthia Bourgeault in "Mystical Hope"

Must we be tossed incessantly between joy and sorrow, expectation and disappointment? Is it not possible to live from a place of greater equilibrium, to find a deeper and smoother current?

The good news is that this deeper current does exist, and you actually *can* find it in hope that flows from the source. The journey to the source of hope is ultimately a *theological* journey, one up and over the mountain to the sources of hope in the headwaters of the Christian Mystery. This journey to the wellsprings of hope is not something that will change your life in the short term. Rather, it is something that will change your innermost way of seeing. From there, inevitably, everything will be rearranged.

The journey to the wellsprings of hope is really a journey toward the center, toward the innermost ground of our being, where we meet and are met by God.

Special Choral Music

El Shaddai

MCC NoVA Choir

Reflection

When There Is No Room...

What Do the Prophets Say?

Hope

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering

by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❖ Welcome To The Table! ❖

Kurt Jaeger

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

We Are The Church Alive

Insert

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❖ Go in Peace ❖