

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday*

*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*

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Gathering Music

Jorge Martinez

Welcome & Announcements

Centering

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

Illumination

Tee

Prayers of the Community

Starlene Keppel

Song of Response

Choir

First Reading ~ *Matthew 21:1-11*

Kurt Jaeger

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Chosen One needs them.’ And will send them back immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of Jesus and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Second Reading

Margot Scheiffley

*~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in “Scapegoat: Palm Sunday”*

The Hebrew ritual from which the word “scapegoat” originated is described in Leviticus 16. On the Day of Atonement, a priest laid hands on an “escaping” goat, placing all the sins of the people from the previous year onto the animal. The goat was then beaten with reeds and thorns and driven out into the desert. It was a vividly symbolic act that helped to unite and free the people in the short term. Instead of owning their own sins, they placed them on the head of an innocent animal.

It is important to remember that Jesus did not come to change God’s mind about us. It did not need changing. Jesus came to change our minds about God—and about ourselves!—and about where goodness and evil really lie.

## Third Reading

*~ adapted from New Testament Scholar and Theologian Marcus Borg in "Saving Jesus"*

Jesus was executed. Everybody would agree that he was crucified, but we in the Christian Church have tended to speak of that as "dying for the sins of the world." But the bottom line- he was executed. And he was executed because the powers that be felt threatened by what he was doing. I don't mean that he was leading a violent revolution, but he was threatening in the same way that Martin Luther King, Jr. was threatening to many people.

Song of Response

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

No. 213

Reflection

## Turmoil

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ Welcome To The Table! ☛

Kurt Jaeger and 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

We Are Marching  
In The Light of God

No. 526

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☛