

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*September 6, 2026*

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

*Celebrating 45 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

Kurt Jaeger

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

Andrea Albamonte

Choir Response

First Reading ~ *Romans 14: 1-3, 5-7, 13-18*

Welcome those whose faith is weak, and don't argue with them. The opinion of people range from those who believe they may eat any sort of meat, to those whose faith is so weak they eat only vegetables. Those who eat everything must not despise those who abstain. The ones who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them.

One person considers one day more sacred than another, another considers all days equally sacred – and both are equally certain of their own opinions. The person who observes special days does it for our God. Whoever eats meat does it for our God and gives thanks to God. Whoever abstains does it for our God and gives thanks to God.

We don't live for ourselves, nor do we die for ourselves.

So stop passing judgment on one another. Rather, we must resolve not to be stumbling blocks or obstructions to each other. I know – and am convinced in our savior Jesus – that no food is unclean in itself. But it is unclean for someone who is convinced it is unclean. If your sibling is upset by what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Don't cause their downfall, for whom Christ died, by your eating. At the same time, don't let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as being evil. For the dominion of God is not a matter of eating or drinking, but of justice, peace and joy in the holy spirit. If we all serve Christ this way, we will be pleasing to God and respected by your siblings.

## Second Reading

~ adapted from Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor in "Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith"

What I noticed at my church is the same thing I notice whenever people aim to solve their conflicts with one another by turning to the Bible: defending the dried ink marks on the page becomes more vital than defending the neighbor. As a general rule, I would say that human beings never behave more badly toward one another than when they believe they are protecting God. In the words of Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas, 'People of the Book risk putting the book above people.

Song of Response    Praise the Source of Faith and Learning    No. 411

## Reflection

### Gray Areas: Using Our Judgment

Kurt Jaeger

## 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    There Are Some Things I May Not Know    No. 405

Benediction and Sending Forth    Kurt Jaeger

## Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧