

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”

Celebrating 41 Years

Epiphany 7 February 19, 2023

There is a book at the Sanctuary entry where prayer requests may be entered. There is also a Square device at the entry of the Sanctuary if you would like to make your Offering Donation via credit card.

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

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from a prayer by Frederick E. Gillis*

Lee Shadwick

One: Spirit of Community, in which we share and find strength and common purpose,

Many: We turn our minds and hearts toward one another seeking to bring into our circle of concern all who need our love and support:

One: Those who are ill, those who are in pain, either in body or spirit,

**Many: Those who are lonely, those who have been wronged,
the oppressed, the poor, the wounded,**

One: We are a part of the web of life that makes us one with all of humanity, one with all the universe,

ALL: We are grateful for the miracle of life we share, the awareness that gives us the power to remember, to love, to share.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18*

YHWH told Moses to tell the entire Israelite community these things: Be holy, for I, YHWH, am holy. When you reap the harvest of your fields, do not cut the grain to the very edges of your field, or gather in all the gleanings of your harvest. Nor are you to completely strip your vines or pick up the fallen fruit. Leave the extra grain and fruit for the poor and the alien (foreigner) to gather for themselves. I am YHWH.

Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not cheat your neighbor. Do not swear by my name with the intent to deceive, for if you do, you profane my name. I am YHWH. Do not oppress your neighbors or rob them. Do not hold back the hired hand's wages until the next day. Do not insult deaf people, or put obstacles in the way of blind people. Revere YHWH, your God.

Do not render an unjust judgment. Do not show partiality to the poor or give honor to the great. Judge your neighbor with fairness. Do not go about slandering others. Do not profit by the blood of your neighbors. I am YHWH. Do not nurse hatred for a neighbor. If you are angry with your neighbor, speak frankly about it, to avoid storing up ill feelings. Never seek revenge or hold a grudge toward your relatives. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am YHWH.

Second Reading ~ adapted from Sister Joan Chittister in “Uncommon Gratitude”

If holiness were a characteristic like others, some might have more and some less; and you might either be envious of another person's holiness or set out to acquire holiness by effort. The awful paradox about holiness- *which is why I should probably stop writing about it right now* –is that the harder you try and the more self-conscious you get about it, the more massively unlikely it is that you'll ever get the point of it, much less share it. To use an overworked metaphor, holiness is as little a characteristic of a person as light is of a window. Put a window in a particular place and the light comes through; put a person in a particular place and God comes through.

God comes through! That's the difference between saying someone is good and saying they're holy. The good person does what's right and sensible. Sometimes such people can even have an unaccountably depressing effect on others. They make you feel just a little bit worse about yourself. The holy person, by common consent across the centuries, is someone who enhances the world for others, who generates joy- not by a great effort of cheering people up, but just by being themselves. You might compare them to works of art- they simply tell you that the world is bigger. And so when I think of holy people, my first thought is of those who have made me see more. Sometimes they have been conventionally saintly, sometimes not. Some of those who open the doors of vision are very flawed persons. To say that such people can be saints (holy) isn't to say that their weaknesses or failures don't matter. It's just that they are constantly and courageously standing in a place where the light comes through.

Response	We Would Be One	Insert
----------	-----------------	--------

Reflection

Let The Light Shine Through

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Jamie Wallace

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ Welcome To The Table! ☛

Rev. Emma Chattin

Invitation To The Table

Consecration & Words of Institution

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

Praise to the Living God

No. 8

Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☛