

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

***December 14, 2025***

***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

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

Prayer Introduction

Choir

Prayers of the Community

Andrea Albamonte

Lighting The Advent Candle of JOY

Song of Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

No. 116  
Verses 1, 2 & 6

First Reading ~ Luke 1:39-47

Lee Shadwick

In those days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and in a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why am I so favored that the mother of the Anointed One comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child inside my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Highest." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies YHWH, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

## Second Reading

Kat Velkoff

~ adapted from Nevada Barr in "Seeking Enlightenment Hat by Hat: A Skeptic's Path to Religion"

I collect hats. Mostly antique, occasionally ones that simply give me joy. I collect them to wear. And finding a place where one can wear a hat these days without engendering stares is a challenge. "Church", I thought. Surely one could still wear a hat to church. That was many years ago. I'd only begun my church-going ways and knew little about the place except that, for reasons I couldn't articulate, I wanted to be there. Little did I know that things had changed over the years, and except for Easter Sunday, I am the only woman in the congregation wearing a hat. But I persevere.

When I wear a hat, I feel special. Alive. Joyful. Like me, but more. There have been many Sunday mornings when the only reason I attended church was to wear a particularly wonderful hat I had come across at a thrift store or in Grandma's attic. Usually these Sundays, the ones when laziness, busyness, or distraction made me want to stay home, were the days I most needed to be among the community, singing and praying and thinking on what really matters.

## Christmas Stories

Homily

Bring To Life

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering  
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Lee Shadwick and 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 ~ Rev. Emma

Closing Song

Joy to The World!

No. 132

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧