

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

August 23, 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

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

Prayers of the Community

Starlene Keppel

Choir Response

Gathering Words

Sarah Cameron

One: Our lives are complicated, messy, and wonderfully human.

Many: The grace of God is always present, in our joy, in our pain, in our love.

One: Through the complications, messes, pain, and troubles,

ALL: We give thanks for love, we give thanks for life, no matter the struggle we face.

First Reading ~ 1 Samuel 17:57 – 18:4

Ken Williamson

As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine (Goliath of Gath), Abner took him to King Saul, and Jonathan ben-Saul (Saul's son), with David still carrying the Philistine's head. "Whose child are you?" Saul asked. David said, "I am the child of your servant, Jesse of Bethlehem." Once David finished speaking with Saul, the souls of Jonathan (Saul's son) and David intertwined, and Jonathan loved David with all his heart and soul. Seeing this, Saul took David in, and wouldn't allow him to return home. And Jonathan and David made a solemn covenant with one another, for they loved each other as much as they loved themselves. Then Jonathan took off his robe and his tunic, and gave them to David; he also gave him his sword, his bow, and his belt.

1 Samuel 20: 27b-35a, 41-42

Carter Hemphill

(Later, at the new moon festival) Saul inquired of Jonathan "Why has the son of Jesse missed meals both yesterday and today?" Jonathan replied, "David asked permission to go to Bethlehem. 'Please let me go', David begged, 'for we are having a clan sacrifice in our city, and my family insists that I be there. Therefore, if I have found favor in your eyes let me slip away to see my sisters and brothers.' That is why he is not present at the table." And Saul was enraged with Jonathan, and said, "You child of a perverse and rebellious woman! Do you think I don't know that you are choosing the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? As long as the son of Jesse dwells on this earth, neither you nor your dynasty will be established. Now go and bring him to me, for he must die!"

Kurt Jaeger

"Why must David die? What has he done?" asked Jonathan. Then Saul hurled his spear at Jonathan, intending to kill him. It was then that Jonathan was certain that Saul intended to murder David. Jonathan, fiercely angry, left the table; the next day, the second day of the festival, he fasted from food, for he was grieved at the way Saul had treated David.

(continued)

1 Samuel 20: 41-42

The next morning he went out to the field for his meeting with David. David got up from the side of the mound and prostrated himself on the ground three times before Jonathan. Then they kissed each other and cried together until David's grief exceeded Jonathan's. Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace; the two of us have pledged ourselves to one another in the name of YHWH. May YHWH be between you and me, and between your descendants and mine, forever." Then David went on his way, and Jonathan went back to town.

2 Samuel 1: 25-26

(After Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle) David took up this lament for Saul and Jonathan: "How the mighty have fallen! In the heat of battle Jonathan lies slain on your heights! I grieve for you, my brother, my Jonathan, you were my delight, my sweet! Your love was marvelous to me, more wonderful than the love of women!"

Second Reading

Kat Velkoff

~ adapted from Sister Joan Chittister in "Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia For All That Is"

The people demand a King against God's plainest advice, yet the kingship will become another sign of God's promise. King David is chosen by God, but his career is the subject of the longest personal saga in the whole of the Bible, and is a roller coaster of success, failure, flight, love, betrayal, danger, precarious recovery, frustration, and tragedy. It's a story in which supernatural intervention is hardly ever apparent. Yet in the complex human emotions and uncertainties of this drama, it is God's action that is going forward, moving forward, and God's company is the one true constant.

Song of Response

When Love Is Found

No. 362

Reflection

Finding Ourselves in the Bible

Jonathan & David : It's Complicated

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 1

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

✠ Go in Peace ✠