

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”   Celebrating 42 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.*

**March 24, 2024   Palm Sunday**

***Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change***

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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**

**Gathering Words** ~ *adapted from Kenneth L. Patton*

**Heather James**

One: Let us worship with our eyes and ears and fingertips;

**Many: Let us love the world through our heart and mind and body.**

One: We feed our eyes upon the mystery and revelation of our siblings and all creation.

**Many: All life flows into a great common life,  
if we will only open the eyes of our heart and look around.**

One: Let us worship, not in bowing down, not with closed eyes and stopped ears.

**Many: Let us worship with the opening of all the windows of our beings,  
with the full outstretching of our spirits!**

**One: Life comes with singing and laughter, with tears and confiding,  
and with a rising wave too great to be held in the mind and heart and body,  
for those who have fallen in love with life.**

**Many: Let us worship, and let us learn to love.**

**Prayers of the Community**

**Dale Bradshaw**

**First Reading** ~ *Mark 11:1-11a*

**Genevieve Walker**

When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples off with instructions: “Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you’ll find a colt tethered there on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone asks, ‘What are you doing?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’” So they went off and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, “What are you doing untying that colt?” The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them take it. They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. The people gave him a wonderful welcome, many spreading their cloaks on the street, others spreading out leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Running ahead and following after, they were calling out, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Blessed the coming dominion of our ancestor David! Hosanna in highest heaven!” Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He looked around, taking it all in.

## Second Reading ~from Henri Nouwen, "In The Name of Jesus"

One of the greatest ironies of the history of Christianity is that its leaders constantly gave in to the temptation of power—political power, military power, economic power, or moral and spiritual power—even though they continued to speak in the name of Jesus, who did not cling to power but emptied himself of it.

The temptation to consider power an apt instrument for the proclamation of the Gospel is the greatest temptation of all. We keep hearing from others, as well as saying ourselves, that having power—provided it is used in service of God and your fellow human beings—is a good thing. With this rationalization, crusades took place; inquisitions were organized; people were enslaved; positions of great influence were desired; episcopal palaces, splendid cathedrals, and opulent seminaries were built; and much moral manipulation of conscience was engaged in. What makes the temptation of power so seemingly irresistible? Maybe it is that power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love. It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people, easier to own life than to love life.

**Song of Response      God Reigns o'er All the Earth      No. 21**

## Community Dialogue

## Offering Invitation

## 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  
Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing  
Community Blessing ~ Kurt Jaeger

## Closing Song      **Blessed Be the Tie That Binds**      No. 393

Benediction and Sending Forth Rev. Emma Chattin

## Postlude

Go in Peace