

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Celebrating 41 Years

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent ~ World AIDS Day

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 Leonard Mason*

One: We affirm the unfailing renewal of life.

**Many: Rising from the earth, and reaching for the sun,
all living creatures shall fulfill themselves.**

One: We affirm the steady growth of human companionship.

**Many: Rising from ancient cradles and reaching for the stars,
people the world over shall seek the ways of understanding.**

One: We affirm a continuing hope

**Many: That out of every tragedy
the spirits of individuals shall rise to build a better world.**

Community Prayers

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Isaiah 2:1-5*

The word that Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of YHWH's temple shall be established as the most important mountain, and raised above all other hills-- all nations will flow toward it. Many peoples shall come and say: "Come! Let us climb YHWH's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths." Instruction will be given from Zion, and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise sword against another, and never again will they train for war. O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of YHWH!

(over)

Second Reading ~ *Adapted from Sister Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B.*
in "A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary"

Here is a concern: As we pine for angels and the otherworldly, there is the danger of missing a precious aspect of Christianity. We are an incarnational people. The Word was made flesh in our midst. We are rooted in an earth that God has proclaimed good. Here on this good earth we have become flesh with the seed of God hidden in us. The greatest of all visions is to see Christ, indeed, to see God, in the frail and glorious human family of the world. It is not always easy, but hope tenders that which is difficult. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin says it well: "Creatures are all around me with their disappointing weaknesses and their terrifying powers." Yes! It is true. We all have within us terrifying powers for good and for evil. We must trust the power for good. We must be people who long for spiritual depth and have the courage to struggle with the eternal questions that rise in our hearts. Within my own heart, too, there is an infinite longing, an ache for what is otherworldly. However, although I have never seen an angel, I am surrounded by a sacred presence I cannot explain.

Contemporary Witness

Kurt Jaeger

Response

MCC NoVA Choir & Community

No. 116
Verses 1,2,3,6,7

Reflection

Fear Not : HOPE
(Or "What Do The Prophets Say?")

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Kate Gilligan

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

MCC NoVA Choir & Community

Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧