

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 43 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.

August 4, 2024

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change

Gathering Music

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 ~ *Sayings of Jesus, from LUKE*

Fab Fernandez

One: The Reign of God is not coming as you hope to catch sight of it.

No one will say "Here it is" or "There it is," for the Reign of God is now in your midst.

***Many: See how the lilies neither spin nor weave, and yet I tell you,
Solomon in all his grandeur was never robed like one of these.***

One: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

All: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Luke 10:25-37*

Genevieve Walker

An expert on the Law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?" Jesus answered, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" The expert on the Law replied: "You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and you must love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you'll live." But the expert on the Law, seeking self-justification, pressed Jesus further: "And just who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveler was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveler lying beside the road, but passed by on the other side. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and, filled with compassion, approached the traveler and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request, 'Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I'll repay you on the way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbor to the traveler who fell in with the robbers?" The answer came, "The one who showed compassion."

Jesus replied, "Then go and do likewise."

Second Reading ~ adapted from Maggi Dawn in "Second Thoughts"

Encountering God in depth inevitably means that we have to unlearn a lot of ideas that are deeply ingrained in us, but which may be at odds with the truth. We draw our idea of God from a mixture of sources, often unconsciously; from childhood experiences, from media, from things we have heard or misheard in church, read or misread in the scriptures. This collection of ideas is the baggage we bring with us to faith, so that God becomes, in our experience, a mixture of truth and misconception. The God we expect to meet may not be the God we actually encounter.

Allowing our idea of Divinity to change and grow is no easy task. There are times when I have held on for dear life to ideas I believed were central to my faith, only to grow slowly into the realization that I was mistaken. When I was taking my first degree in theology, most of the building blocks of my faith came up for serious reexamination. I asked one of my professors how it was possible for faith to survive this kind of intense intellectual scrutiny. He thought for a while, then said, "Once upon a time I believed in a great many things. Now I believe only in a few things... but I believe in them more deeply than I ever thought possible."

Third Reading ~ adapted from the collective "Living The Questions", *The Lives of Jesus*

The image of Jesus has been the subject of considerable manipulation over the ages. Each tradition and each individual puts their own emphasis on this remarkable figure. For many middle-class Americans, the ideal Jesus is the gentle, upstanding, right-thinking, suburbanite with good posture. The notion that Jesus might have been a short, dark, Middle-Eastern peasant rabble-rouser is so far from many people's capacity to comprehend, that all reason is rejected in favor of the gauzy Aryan visions of early childhood. A blond-haired, blue-eyed Jesus, meek and mild, is such a stalwart icon of Western culture that to suggest anything contrary or corrective to that image is tantamount to heresy.

Song of Response

Reflection

Who Was / Is Jesus? Then Go and Do Likewise

Rev Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ Welcome To The Table! ☛

Rev. Emma Chattin & Lee Shadwick

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

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☛