

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

September 7, 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

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

Call to Gather ~ *adapted from Kenneth L. Patton*

One: This house is for the ingathering of nature and human nature,

Many: It is a place where we may weave together the Human and the Divine.

One: It is a house of friendships, a haven during trouble, the Inn of God's forgiveness,
an open room for the encouragement and support of our struggles.

Many: It is a house of freedom, guarding the dignity and worth of every person.

One: It is a house of truth-seeking, where scientists can encourage devotion to their quest,
where mystics can abide in a community of seekers.

**Many: It is a house of beauty, art, and song, adorning its celebrations with beautiful visions,
melodies, and handiworks.**

One: It is a house of forgiveness and prophecy, outrunning times past and present
with visions of growth and progress for the future.

All: This house is a cradle for our dreams, the workshop of our common endeavor.

Prayers of the Community

First Reading ~ *Matthew 18:21-35*

Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When a sister or a brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?”

“No,” Jesus replied, “Not seven times; I tell you, seventy times seven. And here's why:

“The dominion of heaven is like a ruler who wished to settle accounts with his stewards. When the audit was begun, one steward was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered the steward to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt. At this, the steward bowed down in homage, and said, ‘I beg you, have patience with me, and I will pay you back in full. Moved with pity, the ruler let the steward go and wrote off the debt.

(continued)

“Then that same steward went out and met another who owed the steward twenty dollars. The steward seized and throttled this debtor, with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe me.’ The debtor fell to the ground and began to plead. ‘Just give me time, have patience with me, and I will pay you back in full.’ But the steward would hear none of it, and instead had the other put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid.

“When the others saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. Then the ruler sent for the steward and said, ‘You wicked steward! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your fellow steward, as I dealt with you?’ Then in anger, the ruler handed the steward over to be imprisoned and tortured until the debt could be paid in full.

So our heavenly Parent will treat you exactly the same way, unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your heart.”

Second Reading

See Insert

Response

The Inn of God’s Forgiveness

Insert

Reflection

Back To School
Forgiveness

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Ken Williamson & Kurt Jaeger
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

Now In the Days of Youth

No. 360

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧