

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Celebrating 41 Years*

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”      September 11, 2022*

*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

Heather James

*~ adapted from The Collected Sermons of Rev. Fred Craddock*

One: There is no other virtue like gratitude. None.

**Many: Have you ever known a person who is grateful, and at the same time  
mean, small, bitter, angry, or hurtful?**

One: No, not when the person is grateful.

**Many: There is no other virtue like gratitude. None.**

Community Prayers

Marcie Babey

Readings

Jennifer Yi

**First Reading ~ Luke 15:1-10**

By this time a lot of people of dubious reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees, scribes, and legal experts were not at all pleased. They grumbled, “He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.” Jesus then addressed this parable to them. “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, doesn’t leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and search for the lost one until its found? And finding it, you put the sheep on your shoulders in jubilation. Once home, you invite friends and neighbors in and say to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner’s rescued life than over ninety-nine righteous people in no need of rescue. Or what woman who has ten silver coins and loses one, doesn’t light a lamp and sweep the house in a careful and diligent search until she finds what she had lost? And when it is found, she calls in her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found the silver coin I had lost!’ I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God every time one lost soul turns to God.”

(over)

**Second Reading** ~ *adapted from Rev. Phillip Gulley in  
“If Grace is True: Why God Will Save Every Person”*

Since the very beginning, the disciples of Jesus have tried to destroy the opposition. Instead of patiently awaiting the transformation of others, we’ve quickly divided the world into “us” and “them.” We haven’t even reserved this distinction for those of other religions. We’re intolerant of any deviation from the party line. Catholics thought Protestants apostate and damned. Protestants returned the favor, then splintered into a variety of denominations, many of them convinced their version of the Church is the only true Church. This exclusive understanding of salvation has its comforts. It allows us to feel special, righteous, and part of the “in” crowd. However, in an increasingly pluralistic world, remaining comfortable with theological exclusivity is more and more difficult. A Christian zealot may differ little from a Hindu, Muslim, or Jewish zealot. Encountering people who are as arrogant as we are— convinced they’re special, righteous, right, and saved while we are not —is threatening. More disturbing (and potentially transformative!) are encounters with gentle, humble, and compassionate people who understand salvation differently. What if they are right and we are wrong?! Most of us ignore that question, limiting our interactions to those who are like us.

Response                      MCC NoVA Choir & Community                      No. 547

Reflection                      Grace vs. Justice  
Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation                      Jamie Wallace

Offertory                      We Are An Offering                      MCC NoVA Choir  
by Dwight Liles

✠ Welcome To The Table! ✠

Rev. Emma Chattin

Invitation To The Table  
Consecration & Words of Institution  
Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing

Closing Song                      MCC NoVA Choir & Community                      No. 8

Benediction & Sending Forth                      Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

✠ Go in Peace ✠