

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

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.

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 43 Years of Being Out in Northern Virginia

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

Opening Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
verses 1 & 7

No. 116

Illumination

Tee

Gathering Words

Denise Carson

One: We light the second candle of Advent this Sunday
to remind us of peace,

***Many: A peace flowing from mercy,
the peace promised of prophets and sages, the peace of the ages;***

One: A peace that begins within.

ALL: Help us to cradle peace within ourselves, alive and new.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Luke 1:26-38*

Starlene Keppel

Six months later (after Elizabeth had conceived), the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!” Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her, “Fear not, Mary. You have found favor with God. You’ll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name, Jesus (Joshua) – ‘Deliverance’. His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat of David, his ancestor, to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end. Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?” The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you – hence the offspring to be born shall be called the Holy One of God. Know, too, that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month. Nothing is impossible with God. Mary said, “I am a servant of God, let it be with me as you say.”

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "Intimacy: The Divine Ambush"*

God needs to catch us by surprise, because our very limited preexisting notions keep us and our understanding of God very small. We are still trying to remain in control and we still want to look good. God tries to bring us into a bigger world where, by definition, we are not in control and we no longer need to look good. So God has to come indirectly, catching us off guard and out of control, when we are empty, instead of full of ourselves, and full of everything else.

Response Song O God of Love, O God of Peace No. 571

Reflection When There Is No Room...
 What Does Mary Say?
 Peace
 Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation Cornelius Butler

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
Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing
Community Blessing Rev. Emma Chattin

Closing Song It Came Upon a Midnight Clear No. 131

Benediction and Sending Forth Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude
 ✠ Go in Peace ✠