

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

August 31, 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

Ken Williamson

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

Andrea Albamonte

One: For you shall go out in joy

Many: And be led back in peace;

One: The mountains before you shall burst into song,

Many: And all of the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

One: And so don't just hear, but be among those who Do,

Many: Let us be among those who take action, who light the way for others.

One: Let us be an answer to another's prayer,
Let us rise and make good on the promises,

ALL: And let us be blessed by being a blessing.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Matthew 5:1-10*

Margot Scheiffley

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

"Blessed are those who are poor in spirit:
the dominion of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who are mourning:
they will be consoled.

Blessed are those who are gentle:
they will inherit the land.

Blessed are those
who hunger and thirst for justice:
they will have their fill.

Blessed are those who show mercy to others:
they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are those whose hearts are clean:
they will see God.

Blessed are those who work for peace:
they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of their struggle for justice:
the dominion of heaven is theirs."

Second Reading

Lee Shadwick

~ adapted from Thomas Merton in "Seven Story Mountain"

"It is only the infinite mercy and love of God that has prevented us from tearing ourselves to pieces and destroying God's entire creation long ago. People seem to think that it is in some way a proof that no merciful God exists, if we have so many wars. On the contrary, consider how in spite of centuries of sin and greed and lust and cruelty and hatred and avarice and oppression and injustice, spawned and bred by the free wills of people, humanity can still recover, each time, and can still produce those who overcome evil with good, hatred with love, greed with charity, lust and cruelty with sanctity. How could all this be possible without the merciful love of God, pouring out God's grace upon us? Can there be any doubt where wars come from and where peace comes from, when the children of this world, excluding God from their peace conferences, only manage to bring about greater and greater wars the more they talk about peace?"

Response

Help Us Accept Each Other

No. 388

Reflection

Mountains of the Bible
Musings From The Mount

Rev. Luke McPherson

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Jamie Wallace

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.***

© 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Invitation to the Table

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song Called As Partners in Christ's Service

No. 495

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Luke McPherson

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧