

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*October 1, 2023*

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”  
Celebrating 42 Years of Pride*

*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*

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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

Starlene Keppel

Gathering Words

Tee

One: Loving Creator, we confess we sometimes have doubts that you even exist,

**Many: So surrounded are we by evil, hate, hunger, oppression, and violence.**

One: We live in the midst of fires, earthquakes, storms, as we try to find your presence in this world.

**Many: Attune us, like Elijah, to focus and listen to the still small voice within.**

One: Keep us from despair.

**Many: Lead us to be who you made us to be.**

One: Remind us that we are your hands and feet in this world.

**Many: We are your presence! Your own! Your beloved!**

One: Open the sky, break through the clouds of uncertainty and doubt.

**Many: Affirm us! Bless us! Empower us!**

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Luke 3:15-18, 21-22*

Leigh Anne Arnold

The people were living in expectation, all of them wondering in their hearts about John, whether he might be the Messiah (Anointed One). John answered them all by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one is coming who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. This One will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. A winnowing fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire.” Using exhortations like this, John proclaimed the Good News to the people.

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, “You are My Own, my Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

## Second Reading ~ *adapted from Sister Macrina Wiederkehr in “A Tree Full of Angels”*

I moved to the window in the den where the mourning dove has her nest. The storm was still raging. Balancing my coffee cup on the window ledge, I meditated on the mourning dove. I looked at her sitting on that nest, faithfully believing in the eggs. She was being tossed to and fro by the wind, her feathers drenched with rain. I felt so unfaithful in contrast to her. Do I believe in my community as much as she believes in those eggs? When the storms blow me around, what do I do? My questions stopped and I decided that I, too, am strangely faithful. I looked at her again and prayed for her. Why not?

## Song of Response

## Reflection

## Animals of the Bible

## The Dove

Rev. Emma Chattin

## Community Dialogue

## Offering Invitation

Jamie Wallace

## Offertory

# We Are An Offering

by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

## Closing Song

## Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

## Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧