

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Pridetide June 11, 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

Gathering Music

Jorge Martinez

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Emma Chattin

Illumination

Centering

At the sound of the singing bowl,
please take a few moments to prepare yourself for our worship together

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Robert Eller-Isaacs*

Leigh Anne Arnold

One: We come from all over, so many locations,

Many: So many identities, so many individuals.

One: Here, there, everywhere,

Many: And all of the places in between.

One: Yet here we are one community,

Many: We come together in the body of Christ, the center of life...

One: To listen, to question, to learn,

Many: We come together to worship and celebrate.

One: Whoever we are, wherever we are on our journey,

Many: We are welcome here.

All: Let us worship God together.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Matthew 19:11-12*

Not everyone can accept this teaching, only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the dominion of heaven. Let anyone who can accept this, accept it.

Second Reading

~ adapted from Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson in *“Outing The Bible: Queer Folks, God, Jesus and the Christian Scriptures.”*

Does the Bible actually include references to or stories about LGBTIQQ folk consistent with what historians and anthropologists know about sexuality during biblical times? The answer is yes. Some stories are incontrovertible. Others are compellingly LGBTIQQ. And there are other characters, stories, and images that are curiously suggestive of same-sex relationships and gender non-conformity. All of these can empower LGBT people to embrace the Bible joyfully.

But it isn't easy. We are rejected, punished, and excluded by our families and churches, as well as by the larger society. In order to live, we have had to learn how to let go, grieve, survive, and forgive. In order to embrace the Bible joyfully, many people will have to forgive the Bible, as well as forgive those who have used it to hurt and punish and ostracize them.

Overcoming the fear and hurt and learning to forgive are necessary elements in a queer appreciation of the Bible. Obviously, not everyone will want to do it.

Song of Response

Reflection

Not The Marrying Kind Born That Way

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

☞ Welcome To The Table! ☛

Lee Shadwick and 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 ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

Benediction and Sending Forth

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☛