

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

January 25, 2026 Epiphany III

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

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

Prayers of the Community

Heather

First Reading ~ *Matthew 25:31-40*

Heather

(Jesus said) “At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all of the nations assembled below. Then the Promised One will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats.”

The ruler will say to those on the right, “Come, you blessed of my Heavenly Parent! Inherit the dominion prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry, and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill, and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.”

Then these will ask, “When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?” The ruler will answer them, “The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.”

Second Reading

~ adapted from *Herbert Anderson and Edward Foley* in
“*Mighty Stories, Dangerous Rituals: Weaving Together the Human and the Divine*”

The stranger is our future waiting to happen; “the other” is the parable and myth that looms on our horizon. They are sources of anxiety, fear, surprise, and sometimes violence. They are also necessary, for without the other, without the stranger, we lack the distance necessary in order to discover the God who is wholly other -- and even to glimpse ourselves more clearly.

Learning to honor the other, whoever that might be, is a characteristic of faith and a prerequisite for authentic reconciliation. It is not always easy to see the other, and the world of the other, as a gift instead of a threat. When we are able to do so, however, our world is enlarged.

Song of Response They Asked Me "Who's My Neighbor" No. 541

Reflection

A Long Journey

The Other

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering

by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

>Welcome To The Table!

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.*

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Invitation to the Table

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing

Closing Song Arise Your Light Is Come No. 164

Benediction and Sending Forth Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

Go in Peace