

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 42 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.

April 7, 2024 Easter II

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

Illumination

Tee

Gathering Words

Lucas Maertin

~ adapted from “Strange and Foolish Walls” by Rev. A. Powell Davies

One: The years of all of us are short, and our lives precarious.

**Many: *Our days and nights go hurrying on
and there is scarcely time to do the little good that we might do.***

One: Yet we find time for anger, bitterness, denial, petty treason and evasion.

Many: *What can we do to move our hearts enough to lose their littleness?*

One: Here we are — all of us — all upon this planet, bound together in a common destiny,

Many: *Living our lives between the briefness of the daylight and the darkness.*

One: Kindred in this, each lighted by the same precarious flickering flame of life,

Many: *How does it happen that we are not kindred in all things else?*

One: How strange and foolish are these walls of separation that divide us!

Many: *Walls of our own creation!*

One: Here in this place, let the barriers fall, let the walls disappear, let the rooms open,
that we might see one another through the light of kindness, which exposes us all as kindred.

ALL: *Let us move our hearts together as we worship the God of all.*

Prayers of the Community

Starlene Keppel

First Reading ~ John 20:19-31

Genevieve Walker

When it was evening on that same day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the room where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Temple authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." It happened that Thomas (nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Christ."

Thomas' answer was, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later the disciples were again in the room, and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then to Thomas, Jesus said, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!" Jesus then said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Holy One of God, and that through believing you may have newness of life.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Rev. A. Powell Davies*

Let me tell you why I come to church. I come to church—and would whether I was a preacher or not—because I miss the mark of my expectations and I need to be constantly brought back to them. I am afraid of becoming selfish and indulgent, and my church brings me back to what I want to be. I could easily despair; doubt and dismay could overwhelm me. My church renews my courage and my hope. It is not enough that I should think about the world and its problems at the level of a newspaper report or magazine (or nightly news or an internet discussion). It could too soon become too low a level. I must have my conscience sharpened, my senses elevated. I must feel again the love I owe to others. I must not only hear about it, I must FEEL it. In church, I do.

Song of Response

Reflection

Where In The World? Feeling is Believing Rev Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ 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 ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧