

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

July 23, 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

First Reading ~ Deuteronomy 23:1, 3-4

No eunuch may enter the assembly of YHWH.

No Ammonite or Moabite, even down to the tenth generation, may enter the assembly of YHWH, for they did not come to meet you with food or water on your journey up put of Egypt, and because they hired Balaam to curse you.

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

Second Reading ~ Isaiah 56:1-8

Thus says YHWH: “Do what is right! Work for justice! For my liberation is about to come, and my justice is about to be revealed.” Happy is the person who does this, and happy is the person who holds to it—who observes the Sabbath and does not profane it, and refrains from doing any evil. Foreigners who would follow YHWH should not say, “YHWH will surely exclude me from this people.” Nor should the eunuch say, “I am just a dried-up tree.” For thus says YHWH: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbath, and who choose that which pleases me and hold fast to my Covenant- to them I will create within my Temple and its walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who join themselves to me ministering to me, loving the name of YHWH and worshiping me- all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it, and cling to my Covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples!” Thus says the Sovereign YHWH, who gathers the outcasts and scattered of Israel: “There are others I will gather besides those already gathered.”

Third Reading~ Matthew 19:12

(Jesus said) Some eunuchs are born that way. Some have been made eunuchs by others. And some are some who have made themselves so for the sake of the dominion of God. Let anyone who can accept this teaching do so.

## Fourth Reading~ Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of God spoke to Philip and said, "Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert road." So Philip began his journey. It happened that an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was returning home. He was seated in his chariot reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So when Philip ran up to it, he heard the eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. This was the passage of the scripture being read: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Song of Response      Let Justice Flow Like Streams      No. 588

Reflection

Subject To Change  
(The Bible Grows On You)

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory      We Are An Offering      MCC NoVA Choir  
by Dwight Liles

☞ 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 ~ Rev. Emma Chattin

Closing Song      God of Grace and God of Glory      No. 436

Benediction and Sending Forth

Postlude

☞ Go in Peace ☛