

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

July 19, 2026

*Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”
Celebrating 45 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

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

Prayers of the Community

Andrea Albamonte

Choir Response

Gathering Words

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 center of life...

One: To listen, to question, to learn,

Many: We come together to worship, celebrate, connect, and share.

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

All: We belong, and we are welcome here.

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

Margot Scheiffley

~ 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 us.

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.

Response Song

We Are Your People

No. 309

Reflection

Finding Ourselves in the Bible
Born This Way

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Cornelius Butler

Offertory

We Are An Offering

MCC NoVA Choir

✠ Welcome To The Table! ✠

Ken Williamson

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.

© 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Invitation to the Table

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing Ken Williamson

Closing Song

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

No.495

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

✠ Go in Peace ✠