

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

August 6, 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

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Robert French Levens*

One: Holy and beautiful is the custom that brings us together  
in the presence of the Most High.

**Many: To face our ideals, to remember our loved ones in absence, to give thanks,  
to make confession, to offer forgiveness, to be enlightened,  
to be blessed, to be strengthened.**

One: Through this hour breathes the worship of the ages,  
the cathedral music of history.

**Many: Unseen guests attend: Faith, Hope, and Love;**

**ALL: Let all our hearts prepare room for them.**

Prayers of the Community

Genevieve Walker

First Reading ~ *Genesis 32:22-31*

Leigh Anne Arnold

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Yabboek River. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and there someone wrestled with him until daybreak. When the other saw that Jacob could not be prevailed against, the other struck Jacob on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled. Then the other said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

"What is your name?" the other asked. "Jacob," he answered. Then other said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, or 'Heel-Grabber', but Israel, for you have wrestled with both God and with humans, and have prevailed."

Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But the other said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And blessed Jacob there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life was spared." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

**Second Reading~** *adapted from writer and journalist, Elizabeth Gilbert*

Surely something wonderful is sheltered inside you. I say this with all confidence, because I happen to believe we are all walking repositories of buried treasure. I believe this is one of the oldest and most generous tricks the Universe plays on us human beings, both for its own amusement and for ours: The Universe buries strange jewels deep within us all, and then stands back to see if we can find them.

**Song of Response**

**Reflection**

**Wrestling for your Blessing**

**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 ~ Rev. Emma Chattin**

**Closing Song**

**Benediction and Sending Forth**

**Postlude**

❧ **Go in Peace** ❧