

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”

Celebrating 41 Years

Epiphany January 8, 2023

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

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

Opening Song

Morning Has Broken

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Thom Shuman in Lectionary Liturgies*

One: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

***Many: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of ancestors.***

One: We gather asking, 'Where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

***Many: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,
and the oppressed are set free, the hungry are fed.***

One: We gather wanting to know, 'Where will we find Our Hope, the Christ who has come for us?'

Many: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,

One: Where war is overwhelmed by peace,

Many: Where hatred is overwhelmed by love.

All: We come seeking Jesus, we come looking for the Light of the world!

Community Prayers

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Matthew 2:1-12*

Leigh Anne Arnold

After the birth of Jesus, which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of King Herod, Magi, astrologers, from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed and troubled, and the whole of Jerusalem with him. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a leader who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

(over)

After their audience with Herod, they set out. The star they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "Epiphany: You Can't Go Home Again"*

The Magi bring themselves and their assumptions on a perilous journey, and only then can they offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And it all leads to an encounter that rearranges their lives, their self-images, and seemingly even their pocketbooks.

They enter another group and religion from their own, they trust their own skills as astrologers (and God uses their profession to bring them to God), they interrupt their daily regimen at great length and, if they were indeed kings, they submitted to another one.

It's all quite extraordinary imagery... one might even say very "un-religious."

Response We Three Kings of Orient Are

Reflection

Searching For Jesus

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Marcie Babey

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

Community Blessing ~ Rev. Emma Chattin

Closing Song

Arise, Your Light Has Come

No. 164

Benediction & Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧