

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.

January 7, 2023 Epiphany

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change

Gathering Music

Masha Feygelson

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 ~ *adapted from Clinton Lee Scott*

Genevieve Walker

One: Always it is easier to pay homage to prophets than to heed the direction of their vision.

***Many: It is easier to blindly venerate the saints
than to learn the human quality of their sainthood.***

One: To worship the wise is much easier than to learn from their wisdom.

***Many: Great leaders are honored, not by adulation,
but by following their insights and values.***

One: Grandchildren of those who stoned the prophet
sometimes gather up the stones to build the prophet's monument or temple.

***Many: Always it is easier to pay homage to prophets
than to heed the direction of their vision.***

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *1 Samuel 3:1-10*

Leigh Anne Arnold

Now young Samuel was in the service of God under Eli. In those days, the voice of God was rarely heard — visions were not widespread. One night, Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak that he could no longer see, was sleeping in his bed. The lamp of God had not gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tent of Meeting, near the Ark of the Covenant.

Then God called to Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli saying, “You called. Here I am!” Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Now go back to sleep.” He went back to sleep.

A second time, God called Samuel, and he got up and went to Eli. “Here I am!” Samuel said, “You called me.” Eli repeated, “I did not call you. Go back to sleep.” At that time Samuel had not yet encountered God, and the word of God had not yet been revealed to him.

God called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said once more, “Here I am. You called me.” Then Eli realized that God was calling the boy.

So he said to Samuel, “Go back and go to sleep, and if you are called, say, ‘Speak, God, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went back to sleep.

And God called, “***Samuel! Samuel!***”

And Samuel replied, “Speak, God, for I am listening.”

Second Reading

~ from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a speech given in Chicago (West Lawndale) in 1966.

I choose to identify with the underprivileged. I choose to identify with the poor. I choose to give my life for the hungry. I choose to give my life for those who have been left out of the sunlight of opportunity. I choose to live for and with those who find themselves seeing life as a long and desolate corridor with no exit sign. This is the way I'm going. If it means suffering a little bit, I'm going that way. If it means sacrificing, I'm going that way. If it means dying for them, I'm going that way, because I heard a voice saying, '*Do something for others*'.

Song of Response

Reflection

Following Yonder Star

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Time of Individual Prayer and Blessing

Community Blessing ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧