

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

July 2, 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

Illumination

Centering

At the sound of the singing bowl,  
please take a few moments to prepare yourself for our worship together

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from the Capital Pride Service*

Jamie Wallace

One: Behold, How good it is to gather together in a colorful rainbow of affections —

**Many: in the house of a God who loves each of us as we are created.**

One: How good it is to gather all genders together —

**Many: in the house of a God Who transcends human limits and categories.**

One: How good it is to gather together with people who may have different beliefs —

**Many: in the house of a God who hears the prayers of all people.**

One: How good it is to gather with people who have beliefs and those who have questions —

**Many: in the house of a God Who values deeds of justice and caring  
far above the recitation of creeds.**

Prayers of the Community

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Genesis 37:2-3, 18-20, 23-24, 28-32*

Leigh Anne Arnold

When Joseph was 17 years old, he used to accompany his brothers as they herded the flocks. Joseph would tattle on the others to his father, Jacob, while they tended the animals, always presenting them in a negative light. Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any of the others, and gave Joseph a *ketonet passim* (a richly ornamented and very colorful garment with long flowing sleeves). When the brothers saw that Jacob loved him best, they were jealous, and had nothing but words of contempt for the boy.

They saw Joseph approaching in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to murder him. They said to one another, “Here comes that dreamer. Now’s our chance! Let’s kill him and throw his body into one of these pits. We’ll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams!” So when Joseph came upon his brothers, they stripped him of his *ketonet passim*, and picked him up and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty. There was no water in it. Meanwhile, some Midianite traders passed by and pulled Joseph out of the pit. They sold him for 8 ounces of silver to an Ishmaelite caravan, who took Joseph with them to Egypt. When Reuben came back to the pit to rescue Joseph, he found Joseph gone, and he tore his clothes in grief. Returning to the others, Reuben said, “The boy is gone! Now what will I do? What will become of me?”

So they took Joseph's *ketonet passim*, slaughtered a goat, and dipped it in blood. They took the *ketonet passim* and brought it to Israel (Jacob) saying, "Look what we found! Do you recognize it? Is it Joseph's?"

**Second Reading** ~ *adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "Following The Mystics: Seeing God in All Things"*

Permission is what makes mystics sort of dangerous. It's the permission to color outside the lines. It's permission to be who they really are. It's not just gay people who have to come out of their closets. We're all in our closets. They've just given us a good metaphor for what we all have to do. We're all afraid to come out of our various closets. This liberation is not a need to be outrageous or rebellious. It's so much better than that. It is permission to be the "image and likeness of God" that you already are! We each are unlike any other image or likeness. God is saying to each of us, "All I want is for you to return to me, the Sender, who you really are!" Ironically, it takes most of our life to find that True Self, to accept it, and to return it to the Maker—now with our own signature attached.

Song of Response

Reflection

Color Outside The Lines

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Kurt Jaeger

Offertory

We Are An Offering  
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Lee Shadwick and 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

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧