

# METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

*Celebrating 41 Years  
Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”      December 18, 2022  
Third Sunday of Advent*

*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*

Gathering Words

Ellis Fraser

One: Change is often scary,

**Many: And even good news and good things can cause us to be afraid.**

One: Sometimes the biggest challenge in the midst of new things and change...

**Many: Is to look around about us and whisper, “Fear not. Don’t be afraid”.**

One: Let us always be open to earthly angels & good tidings in unexpected places!

**ALL: For unto all of us the love of God is born!**

Community Prayers

Dale Bradshaw

First Reading ~ *Luke 2:8-15*

Jen Yi

There were shepherds in the area living in the fields keeping watch by turns over their flocks by night. And lo, an angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone round about them, and they were very much afraid.

The angel said to them, “Fear Not! For behold, I bring you good news, good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a savior- the Messiah. Let this be a sign unto you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in simple cloth, and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the Highest. And on earth, peace, good will toward all.”

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which God has made known to us.”

*(over)*

**Second Reading** ~ adapted from “The Decree” by Ann Weems in “Kneeling In Bethlehem”

And in these days a decrees goes out to all the world,  
for these are taxing times.

We are all called again to go to Bethlehem,  
no matter the state of our health or our world.

We come, faithful, for we have heard the message,  
we have dreamed the dream

that God will come to dwell among us.

We come, expectant with joy,  
pregnant with anticipation,  
for God has done great things for us.

We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts,  
startled and frightened by the magnitude of illumination,  
we huddle together toward Bethlehem.

We come, one by one,  
and yet, as one.

**Contemporary Witnesses**

Lee Shadwick & Dale Bradshaw

**Response**

MCC NoVA Choir & Community

No. 133  
Verses 1,2,4

**Reflection**

**Fear Not : JOY**  
(Or... “What Do The Shepherds Say?”)

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**

MCC NoVA Choir & Community

No. 132

**Benediction & Sending Forth**

Rev. Emma Chattin

**Postlude**

❖ Go in Peace ❖