

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Celebrating 41 Years

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”

September 4, 2022

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

Gathering Words ~ *adapted from Rev. Gord in Worship Offerings* Kate Gilligan

One: We are called to be people of faith in the world,

Many: And so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.

One: We gather here as people who live in the world, and yet,

Many: We have been called to see the world from a different perspective.

One: In this time together, may God open our hearts, minds, and eyes,

Many: Allowing us to see deeper, allowing us to live in the world,

ALL: While offering a challenge and counterpoint to the ways of the world.

Community Prayers

Dale Bradshaw

Readings

Darren Foster

First Reading ~ *Romans 12:1-2*

Siblings in Christ, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God- this is your spiritual act of worship. Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can discern God's will- what is good, pleasing, and perfect - God's plan and purpose for you.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Barbra Brown Taylor in
“An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith”*

I began asking God to tell me what I was supposed to do. What was my designated purpose on this earth? How could I discover the vocation that had my name on it? Since this was an important prayer, I searched for the right place to pray it. The fire escape turned out to be an excellent place to pray. Doing something that scared me cranked up my courage. Escaping up instead of down prepared me for other reversals. The wind up there smelled like the moon. I went up there so many times in the weeks that followed that I no longer remember which night it was that God finally answered my prayer. I do not think it was right at the beginning, when I was still saying my prayers in words. I think it came later, when I had graduated to sounds. Up on that fire escape, I learned to pray the way a wolf howls.

(over)

Then one night when my whole heart was open to hearing from God what I was supposed to do with my life, God said, "Anything that pleases you." "What?" I said, resorting to words again. "What kind of an answer is that?" "Do anything that pleases you," the still small voice said again, "and belong to me." At one level, that answer was no help at all. The ball was back in my court again, where God had left me all kinds of room to lob it wherever I wanted. I could be a priest or a circus worker. God really did not care. At another level, I was so relieved that I sledded down the stairs that night. Whatever I decided to do for a living, it was not what I did **but how I did it** that mattered. God had suggested an overall purpose, but was not going to supply the particulars for me. If I wanted a life of meaning, then I was going to have to apply the purpose for myself.

Response	MCC NoVA Choir & Community	No.488
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Reflection	Life Work	Rev. Emma Chattin
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Blessing of Labor	Rev. Emma Chattin
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Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation	Marcey Babey
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Offertory	We Are An Offering by Dwight Liles	MCC NoVA Choir
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❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Rev. Emma Chattin

Invitation To The Table
Consecration & Words of Institution
Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing ~ Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song	MCC NoVA Choir & Community	TBA
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Benediction & Sending Forth	Rev. Emma Chattin
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Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧