

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

August 16, 2026

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out”

Celebrating 45 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.

Like Life, The Order of Worship is Subject to Change Without Notice

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

Illumination

Tee

Prayers of the Community

Andrea Albamonte

Choir Response

Gathering Words

Carter Hemphill

One: Let our spirituality and our religion be a living thing,

Many: Let it move with us, go with us, grow with us as we move through life.

One: New wine is not put into old wineskins,

ALL: Nor can the love and grace of God be contained by old rules and traditions.

First Reading ~ *Deuteronomy 23:1*

Ken Williamson

No eunuch may enter the assembly of YHWH.

Second Reading ~ *Isaiah 56:1-8*

Ken Williamson

Thus says YHWH: “Do what is right! Work for justice! For my liberation is about to come, and my justice is about to be revealed.” Happy is the person who does this, and happy is the person who holds to it—who observes the Sabbath and does not profane it, and refrains from doing any evil. Foreigners who would follow YHWH should not say, “YHWH will surely exclude me from this people.” Nor should the eunuch say, “I am just a dried-up tree.” For thus says YHWH: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbath, and who choose that which pleases me and hold fast to my Covenant— to them I will create within my Temple and its walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who join themselves to me ministering to me, loving the name of YHWH and worshiping me— all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it, and cling to my Covenant — these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples!” Thus says the Sovereign YHWH, who gathers the outcasts and scattered of Israel: “There are others I will gather besides those already gathered.”

Third Reading ~ *Matthew 19:12*

Margot Scheiffley

(Jesus said) Some eunuchs are born that way. Some have been made eunuchs by others. And some are some who have made themselves so for the sake of the dominion of God. Let anyone who can accept this teaching do so.

Then an angel of God spoke to Philip and said, "Be ready to set out at noon (the hottest part of the day) along the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert road." So Philip began his journey. It happened that an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was returning home. He was seated in his chariot reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So when Philip ran up to it, he heard the eunuch reading the prophet Isaiah, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. This was the passage of the scripture being read: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Song of Response Let Justice Flow Like Streams No. 588

Reflection Finding Ourselves in the Bible
 Subject To Change
 (The Bible Grows On You)

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation Cornelius Butler

Offertory We Are An Offering MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Kurt Jaeger and Ken Williamson

Sung Words of Institution:

"Let Us Be Bread"

By Thomas J. Porter

The Leader will sing the verses. Please join together on the refrain:

Let us be bread, blessed by our God, broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured. Let us be one in our God.

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Invitation to the Table

Sharing The Open Meal of Christ

Community Blessing Kurt Jaeger

Closing Song Help Us Accept Each Other No. 388

Benediction and Sending Forth Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧