

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

January 19, 2025

Epiphany III

Martin Luther King Sunday

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.

Spirit, Community, Action – Inside & “Out” Celebrating 43 Years of Being Out in Northern Virginia

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

Illumination

Prayers of the Community

Heather James

First Reading ~ *Matthew 5:38-48 From The Message Translation*

(Jesus said) “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friends,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemies.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. God gives the best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

Second Reading

~ *adapted from “Loving Your Enemies”, Sermon by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, November 17, 1957*

And oh this morning, as I think of the fact that our world is in transition now. Our whole world is facing a revolution. Our nation is facing a revolution. There are oppressors and there are the oppressed. And there are three ways that individuals who are oppressed can deal with their oppression. One of them is to rise up against their oppressors with physical violence and corroding hatred. But this isn’t the way. Violence creates many more social problems than it solves. If people all over the world succumb to the temptation of using violence in their struggle, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate night of bitterness, and our chief legacy to the future will be an endless reign of meaningless chaos and war. Another way is to acquiesce, to give in, to be resigned to the oppression. Some people do that. But that, too, isn’t the way, because the refusal to cooperate with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good.

(continued)

But there is a different way. And that is to organize mass non-violent resistance based on the principle of love. It seems to me that this is the only way as our eyes look to the future. As we look out across the years and across the generations, let us develop and move right here. We must discover the power of love, the power, the redemptive power of love. And when we discover that we will be able to make of this old world a new world. We will be able to make people better. Love is the only way. Jesus knew that.

Response

Reflection

A Different Way

LOVE

Rev. Emma Chattin

Community Dialogue

Offering Invitation

Offertory

We Are An Offering
by Dwight Liles

MCC NoVA Choir

❧ Welcome To The Table! ❧

Heather James

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 Ken Williamson

Closing Song

Benediction and Sending Forth

Rev. Emma Chattin

Postlude

❧ Go in Peace ❧