



METROPOLITAN
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY, January 31, 2016

PREPARATION

*The Pastor's entrance and the beginning of the musical prelude
are the calls to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.*

THE GATHERING

We are standing on Holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in God's presence on Holy ground.

LITANY

- Leader:** O God, when the world grows weary of our righteous confessions and rigid creeds,
- People:** **Help us to remember that Jesus did not go about talking big but doing good.**
- Leader:** When the world grows weary of our date-setting speculations and doomsday prophecies,
- People:** **Help us to remember that Jesus did not go about chasing mysteries but confronting realities.**
- Leader:** O God, when the world grows weary of sterile knowledge and our strident doctrines,
- People:** **Help us to remember that Jesus did not go about defending propositions but speaking parables.**
- Leader:** When the world grows weary of our clannish nationalism and our religious parochialism,
- People:** **Help us to remember that Jesus did not go about coddling bigotry but demanding charity.**
- Leader:** When the world grows weary of our childish beliefs and otherworldly concerns,
- People:** **Help us to remember that Jesus did not go about pondering eternity but practicing love.**
- ALL:** **So faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.**
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OPENING HYMN**“ARE YE ABLE, SAID THE MASTER”**

“Are ye able,” said the Master, “To be crucified with Me?”

“Yea,” the sturdy dreamers answered, “To the death we follow Thee:”

“Lord, we are able” – our spirits are Thine; Remold them – make us like Thee, divine: Thy guiding radiance above us shall be a beacon to God, to love and loyalty.

“Are ye able” to remember, when a thief lifts up his eyes,
That his pardoned soul is worthy of a place in Paradise? CHORUS

“Are ye able,” when the shadows close around you with the sod,
To believe that spirit triumphs, to commend your soul to God? CHORUS

“Are ye able?” still the Master whispers down eternity,
And heroic spirits answer, now, as then in Galilee: CHORUS

WELCOME – Visitors standing

If you are here for the first time, we are delighted that you came. If you are dropping in for a second or third visit, we are glad you found something you were looking for. We hope you will be challenged by our worship and that you will come back again. If you are looking for a faith community, we would welcome you as a part of our church family. When you are officially welcomed as a visitor, you will receive a Visitor's Information Card. Please fill it out, and return it to the Pastor, or place it in the offering plate. WELCOME!

CONCERNS OF CHURCH AND CITY

D. Billye Sanders

Your tithes and gifts help us:

- Pay the mortgage, utilities, maintenance, and security for the Metropolitan Meeting House;
- Provide free pastoral counseling (spiritual, marital, grief) services to members of our congregation;
- Fund the programs of the First Response Center, serving >700 people living with HIV/AIDS, and others at-risk;
- Pay for the personnel and operating costs of our ministries;
- Provide educational materials to assist in the spiritual growth & development of our community;
- Maintain meeting space for ministries, including Girl Scouts, various groups, and community events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;
- Provide emergency assistance to members of the congregation and community through our benevolence fund.

*Every gift of your time, talent and treasure makes a vital difference
in the life and ministries of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church. Thank you.*

SONGS OF PRAISE

The Voices of Metropolitan
Reginald Green, Minister of Music

OFFERTORY

“For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.” 1 Chronicles 29:14

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host: Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

PROCLAMATION**THE WORD**

Luke 4:14-30

CHORAL RESPONSE

Harry Emerson Fosdick

Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

RESPONSE

*Please do not leave the sanctuary or in any other manner create a distraction during the invitational period. This is a moment of **unparalleled** importance.*

MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

Voices of Metropolitan

INVITATION TO LIFE IN CHRIST

This church will welcome into its membership any persons who love and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and who promise to live according to His Laws of Love, recognizing all people as brothers and sisters for whom He gave His life.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Prayer

We do not presume to come to this, Thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs from under Thy table. But Thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this sacrament of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life and grow to reflect Thy Spirit in all things forevermore. Amen.

(We will eat and drink together after all have been served.)

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

We've come too far to turn back now;
By the grace of God we're gonna make it somehow.
Nobody knows the trouble we've seen; We've come too far to turn back now.

LOVE - To love means to have an intrinsic interest in another person. It is not of necessity contingent upon any kind of group or family closeness... People do not love in general, but they do love in particular. To love means dealing with persons in the concrete rather than the abstract. In the presence of love, there are no types or stereotypes, no classes and no masses.

An intrinsic interest is therefore not possible apart from a sense of fact where other persons are concerned. This sense of fact means that the other person is dealt with as they are and in the light of the details of their lives. It does not mean becoming so involved in the bill of particulars in other human beings that we cannot get through to them. But it does mean defining the other person in their context and establishing a perspective with regard to that context and where they are located in it. To state it conventionally and categorically, it means meeting a person where they are and dealing with them as if they were where they should be. **HOWARD THURMAN, from *For the Inward Journey***

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

2128 11th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208

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Phone: (615) 72METRO (726-3876) Fax: (615) 259-9210 website: www.micwhosoever.org

Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, The Senior Servant

Pastoral Staff: Rev. John Cross, Rev. Marcella Lockhart, Rev. Clifford Smith,

Rev. Christopher Davis, Rev. Terry Terrell, Rev. Mary Jo Smiley,

Rev. Regina McCrary, Rev. Neely Williams, Rev. Stephanie Thompson,

Rev. Cherie Booker, Rev. Christopher Goodwin

Commented [CW1]:

Commented [CW2R1]:

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 1; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series meets Saturdays 9:00–11:00 a.m.
 at the First Response Center, 1219 9th Avenue North, Nashville 37208; Call: 615-321-9791

~~ **FEBRUARY IS FOUNDERS' MONTH!** ~~

Sunday, February 7, 2016 – METRO's 35th Anniversary!

February 10, 2016 – Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 28, 2016 – Founders' Day Brunch

In March, **THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS** begins
 Saturday, March 5, 2016 with **PRAYING THROUGH THE NIGHT.**

Friday evening Dancercise, 7 pm

Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday, 12 – 2 pm

Saturday Evening Worship, 6 – 7 pm

Photo Directories have arrived! One free for each family photo, then \$10.00 each.

United Way Employee Giving Campaign: Designate #3255 to support the First Response Center. For the Combined Federal Campaign, *Write In* Metropolitan Interdenominational Church First Response Center.

Support Metropolitan while you shop.

(1) Register your **Kroger Plus card** online and select Metropolitan as the organization you wish to support. Go to Koger.com/communityrewards or call 1-800-576-4377 option 3. Renew registration annually, in August.

(2) Register at **Smile.Amazon.com**, select Metropolitan FRC as the charity you support, then *always* shop through Smile.Amazon; 0.5% of the proceeds will support the work of the FRC.

~ Giving Summary ~

Date	Offering - Budgeted	Offering - Actual	Offering – (Un)Realized	Summary (Un)Realized
2015 Year to Date	\$ 300,040.00	\$ 283,492.20		(\$16,547.80)
January 3, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 7,475.00	\$ 1,705.00	
January 10, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 4,646.00	(\$ 1,124.00)	
January 17, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 3532.00	(\$ 2,238.00)	
January 24, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 594.00	(\$ 5,176.00)	
January, 2016	\$ 23,080.00	\$ 16,247.00	(\$ 6,833.00)	
2016 Year to Date	\$ 23,080.00	\$ 16,247.00	(\$ 6,833.00)	(\$ 6,833.00)

SICK, SHUT IN, and RECOVERING MEMBERS

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers, <i>not visitors</i> , please.
Ella Louise Gant	908 Cannon Street; Nashville, TN 37210	615-242-0226
Lynda Hodgers	P.O. Box 54; Guys, TN 38339	662-579-5317
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Pat Patterson	208 Lunn Court; Nashville, TN 37218	615-876-4433
Connie Ryans	1703 Pecan Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-310-7855
Rev. Mary Jo Smiley	Rm #200, Creekside Rehab. Center, 306 West Due West Ave, Madison TN 37115	
Ernestine Williams	2712 Vista Lane; Nashville, TN 37207	615-876-7057
Mary Grace Williams	293 Becklea Drive; Madison, TN 37115	615-868-6810
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375



**METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

Sunday, January 31, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

*Metropolitan Interdenominational Church is a community of believers inclusive of all
and alienating to none, leading the way to spiritual growth by sharing God's love with the world.*

LIBERATION THEOLOGY

LIBERATION THEOLOGY is at the heart of Jesus' mandate for social justice ministry, which is clearly and profoundly stated in Luke 4:18-19. From beginning to end the work of our Savior is framed by his powerful response to the needs of those who number amongst the marginalized and disinherited. How we respond to the "the poor...the captives...the blind...and the oppressed" is the primary yardstick we should use whenever we are attempting to assess whether or not we are in sync with God's will for the church. As we hear the cries of our brothers and sisters whose lives have been devastated by crises, it is important for us not to forget that the voices of these same people have been reaching out to us for generations. There are more human beings than we count can count, within and beyond the shores of the United States of America, who are in desperate need of something more than the traditional "missionary mentality" response of the church as we know it in the western world. The church must stop being a party to the structural, systemic and institutionalized practices of oppression reflective of the spirits of greed and domination that are operative in our society. Our calling to "share God's love with the world" requires us to "speak truth to power" and play an active role in dismantling the barriers that stand in the way of the "good news" being brought to life in the lives of those toward whom Jesus is pointing our ministries. Being faithful to the teaching of Jesus requires us becoming the embodiment of LIBERATION THEOLOGY.

(modified from Sunday, January 27, 2013)

-Senior Servant

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE

February 10	Circle 2	March 2	Circle 5
February 17	Circle 3	March 9	Circle 6
February 24	Circle 4	March 16	Circle 7

BIBLE READINGS

Read... Pray... Sacrifice...

February 1-7, 2016

Last Sunday after the Epiphany -- Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)