



**METROPOLITAN
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**



BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE

Sunday, March 19, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ~ GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

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

Girl Scouts

- Leader:** Moses leads you up from the land of Egypt, out of the chains of slavery into the burdens of freedom. And you sing to the Lord, saying, "The Lord is our strength and our song; the Lord has become our salvation."
- People:** The Lord our God is among us.
- Leader:** But now you come to a pool of water; you cannot drink because it is bitter. And you murmur against Moses; you mutter against the Lord.
- People:** Is the Lord among us or against us?
- Leader:** Then the Lord shows Moses a tree, and Moses throws it into the water, and the water becomes sweet.
- People:** The Lord our God is among us.
- Leader:** Now you set out for another place; you leave the oasis and come into the wilderness. Food is not to be found. Any you again murmur against Moses; you mutter against the Lord.
- People:** Is the Lord among us or against us?
- Leader:** But the Lord sends quail-meat in the evening and manna-bread in the morning, and all of you are filled.
- People:** The Lord our God is among us.
- Leader:** Now you move on from the wilderness; you make camp after another day. But again you have no water to drink. You murmur against Moses.
- People:** Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Will you kill us and our children with thirst?
- Leader:** You mutter against the Lord.
- People:** Is the Lord among us or against us?
- Leader:** Then the Lord shows Moses a rock, and water flows from its center. Your thirst is quenched.
- People:** The Lord our God is among us.
- Leader:** O faithless generation! Have you believed only because you have seen signs? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!
- All:** We believe, O Lord; forgive us our unbelief. Help us to believe without seeing!

OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow’r, To help me over my weakest hour,
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see, **CHORUS.**

CHORUS: Lead me, oh Lord, lead me. Lead me, guide me along the way, For if you lead me
I cannot stray, Lord, let me walk each day with Thee, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress,
I am putting all my trust in Thee, **CHORUS.**

I am lost, if you take your hand from me, I am blind without Thy Light to see,
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be, **CHORUS.**

WELCOME – Visitors standing

Girl Scouts

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

Girl Scouts

GIRL SCOUTS

Reverend Terry Terrell

AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Pastoral Assistant

OFFERTORY

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

Your tithes and gifts help us:

- Pay the mortgage, utilities, maintenance, and security for the Metropolitan Meeting House.
- Provide free pastoral counseling services to members of our congregation;
- Fund the programs of the First Response Center, where we serve over 700 people living with HIV/AIDS, and other at-risk persons;
- Pay for the personnel and operating costs of our ministries;
- Provide educational materials and resources to assist in the spiritual growth and development of our community;
- Maintain meeting space for ministries, including Girl Scouts, various recovery/support groups, and community events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;
- Give 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!

CELEBRATION IN SONG

The Voices of Metropolitan
Reginald Green, Minister of Music

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

John 4:5-42

Girl Scouts

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

PREPARATORY PERIOD

COMMON GROUND

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

SERMON NOTES

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

The 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.

In many ways beyond all calculation and reflection, our lives have been deeply touched and influenced by the character, the teaching, and the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth. He moves in and out upon the horizon of our days like some fleeting ghost. At times, when we are least aware and least prepared, some startling clear thrust of his mind is our portion—the normal tempo of our ways is turned back upon itself and we are reminded of what we are, and of what life is. Often the judgment of such moments is swift and silencing; sometimes his insight kindles a wistful longing in the heart, softened by the muted cadence of unfulfilled dreams and unrealized hopes. Sometimes his words stir to life long forgotten resolutions, call to mind an earlier time when our feet were set in a good path and our plan was for holy endeavor. Like a great wind they move, fanning into flame the burning spirit of the living God, and our leaden spirits are given wings that sweep beyond all vistas and beyond all horizons.

(from “Concerning Disciplines of the Spirit,” in *For the Inward Journey*, p.84)

HOWARD THURMAN

CORE VALUES	Our core values define the framework within which we live out the ideals of our calling based upon the word of God as reflected in Jesus Christ.
Loving, Giving, Serving, Inclusive, Reconciling, Fellowship, Liberating	INCLUSIVE: <i>Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting</i>
LOVING: <i>Worshipping, Comforting, Caring</i>	RECONCILING: <i>Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming</i>
GIVING: <i>Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering</i>	FELLOWSHIP: <i>Celebrating, Belonging, Participating</i>
SERVING: <i>Helping, Ministering, Providing</i>	LIBERATING: <i>Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating</i>

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

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

Rev. John Cross, Senior Pastoral Assistant

Pastoral Staff: *Rev. Marcella Lockhart, Rev. Clifford Smith, Rev. Christopher Davis,*

Rev. Terry Terrell, Rev. Regina McCrary, Rev. Neely Williams,

Rev. Stephanie Thompson, Rev. Cherie Booker, Rev. Christopher Goodwin



METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT ~ GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

*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.*

MORE THAN ENOUGH

The 2008 dispute over the north border of the state of Georgia piqued the interest of the increasing number of people who realized that one of the great social issues of the future will be access to water. While the city of Atlanta and much of the state of Georgia was being devastated by a prolonged drought, the state of Tennessee, because of its abundance of free-flowing rivers, was able to avoid the negative impact of diminished levels of rainfall. Though this was true, it was clear that the issues of shortage could easily be resolved if the powers that be could get beyond the issue of control. Common sense would allow just about anyone to see that there is *more than enough* water for everyone, if there was simply a willingness to share. Thinking about this dilemma in relationship to this week's text (John 4:5-42) makes us realize that the lesson learned in the story of the Samaritan woman has tremendous similarities to the struggle that was unfolding between the state of Tennessee and the state of Georgia. The issues of prejudice, power, tradition, judgment, greed, and control are all dynamics that are a part of the Biblical text; and those same realities were at the heart of the dilemma between the states. The answer in the 21st Century is the same answer as it was then. For, in the final analysis, the ability to love your neighbor as yourself, and share without reservation all that God has freely given still represents the spirit of the nature of God. The drama that was played out in court would cease instantly if only there were the appreciation for the fact that there is *more than enough* of everything we need, if we would only open our hearts and minds to God.

(Reprinted from Sunday, March 23, 2014)

--Senior Servant

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Connie Ryans	1703 Pecan Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-310-7855
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 2; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

Thank you for Supporting Metropolitan while shopping at Kroger.

Our Community Rewards check for the 2nd Quarter (12/01/16-02/28/17) will be \$160.05!

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series *Join us* on Saturday mornings, 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the First Response Center, 1219 9th Ave. North, Nashville 37208

Sunday, March 19, 2017 — Ecclesiastical Council Meeting

immediately following reception celebrating those with March birthdays

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8a.m.–2p.m. — Recipe for Family Wellness

Saturday, April 15, 2017 — Sweat Equity Day and Fish Fry + Barbeque

Sunday, April 23, 2017 — Ecclesiastical Council Meeting

Friday-Saturday, April 28-29, 2017 — Church Retreat

Join us in a serene, natural setting for rest, renewal, and planning our future.

Cost: \$50 includes lodging and 3 meals.

Taking a head count now! Interested? Please inform Cynthia 615-726-3876 ext. 21

Friday evening Dancercise, 7p.m.

Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday 12–2p.m.

Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.; with *The Voices of Metropolitan* on the second Saturday each month

Centering Prayer, Sunday mornings 8:30-8:50 a.m.

~ Giving Summary ~

Date	Offering – Budgeted	Offering – Actual	Offering (Un)Realized	Summary (Un)Realized
January, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$30,036.04	\$1,186.04	\$1,186.04
February, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$21,275.38	(\$1,804.62)	(\$618.58)
March 5, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 5,482.25	(\$287.75)	
March 12, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 3,920.46	(\$1,849.54)	
March, 2017	\$11,540.00	\$9,402.71	(\$2,137.29)	
2017 Year to Date	\$63,470.00	\$60,714.13		(\$2,755.87)

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

March 15	Circle 1	April 1	Circle 4
March 22	Circle 2	April 8	Circle 5
March 29	Circle 3	April 15	Circle 6

~ Bible Readings ~ *Read... Pray... Sacrifice...* March 20 - 26, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

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