



**METROPOLITAN  
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**



**BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE**

**Sunday, March 26, 2017**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**PREPARATION**

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

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**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.*

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**LITANY**

- Leader:** God sends the light of the world into our midst to bless the humble and judge the proud,  
**People:** That those who see might become sightless, and that the sightless might see.  
**Leader:** God sends the light of the world into our midst to debase the exalted and to exalt the debased,  
**People:** That those who see might become sightless, and that the sightless might see.  
**Leader:** God sends the light of the world into our midst to reveal the sin of the saints and to give hope to the sinners.  
**All:** Let your light illumine us, O Lord, that we may see ourselves with your eyes. If we cannot see our goodness for yours, bless our sight. If we cannot see your goodness for ours, reveal to us our blindness.

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**OPENING HYMN**

*“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home!  
Under the shadow of Thy throne Still may we dwell secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.  
Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.  
Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.  
O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guide while life shall last, And our eternal home.

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## DEDICATION OF NEW LIFE

*Rev. John S. Cross, Senior Pastoral Assistant*

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### Cayden Corleone Elliott

**Parents:** Shane'e Monique Driver and Aaron Corleone Elliott

**Maternal Grandparents:** Thomas Driver and Ruth Driver **Step-Grandparent:** John S. Cross

**Paternal Grandparents:** Aaron Elliott and Sandra Elliott

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## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

With God's help, we the family, friends and members of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church will so order our lives after the example of Christ that this child, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith and confirmed in the way that leads to eternal life.

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## 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!**

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## CONCERNS OF CHURCH AND CITY

*Billye Sanders*

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## OFFERTORY

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

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### **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!***

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## CELEBRATION IN SONG

The Voices of Metropolitan  
*Reginald Green, Minister of Music*

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## 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.

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## PROCLAMATION

### THE WORD

*John 9:1-41*

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## CHORAL RESPONSE

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

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## PREPARATORY PERIOD

## THE MESSAGE

*Rev. John S. Cross, Senior Pastoral Assistant*

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## HEARING AND SEEING GOD

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents

sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him.

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

*John 9:1-41*

# SERMON NOTES

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## 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 the face of all the uncertainties that surround any decision, the wise man acts in the light of his best judgment illumined by the integrity of his profound spiritual insights. Then the rest is in the hands of the future and in the mind of God.

(from "Concerning Disciplines of the Spirit," in *For the Inward Journey*, p.87) **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:** *Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting*

**LOVING:** *Worshipping, Comforting, Caring*

**RECONCILING:** *Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming*

**GIVING:** *Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering*

**FELLOWSHIP:** *Celebrating, Belonging, Participating*

**SERVING:** *Helping, Ministering, Providing*

**LIBERATING:** *Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating*

## **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

2128 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208; *Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 280779, Nashville, TN 37228

**Phone:** (615) 72METRO (726-3876) ~ **Fax:** (615) 259-9210 ~ **website:** [www.micwhosoever.org](http://www.micwhosoever.org)

***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 26, 2017**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

*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.*

**THE DRAMA OF EVERYDAY LIFE**

The Drama of Everyday Life is the title of a book written by one of my dearest friends, Karl Scheibe. The central theme in this truly profound work is that the experience of life can be understood as a drama being played out before us continually, and when considered closely, we can gain great insight into the complex, as well as the simple realities that confront us on our journey through life. While reading John 4:1-41, I realized how the story unfolded in a fashion that is characteristic throughout all of the gospel of John. The writer paints the picture of the inseparable connection between ordinary experience and theological awareness. The beggar's encounter with Jesus reminds us of how, far too often, our greatest opportunities to bring the gospel alive in our lives are missed by walking past, overlooking, ignoring, dismissing, denying and avoiding the ripe moments for ministry that are right before us. I pray that "the mind of Christ" will take hold of our consciousness, such that the body of Christ will be able to clearly see our role in *The Drama of Everyday Life*.

*(Reprinted from Sunday, March 30, 2014)*

*--Senior Servant*

**~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~**

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

**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.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. North, Nashville 37208

### Mark your calendars:

**HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP** - Thursday, April 13, 12:10 – 12:50 pm

**SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST** - Friday, April 14, 7 pm

Saturday, April 15, 2017 - Community Gardens Day *and* Fish Fry fundraiser

**HOLY SATURDAY WORSHIP** - Saturday, April 15, 6 – 7 pm

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** - Sunday, April 16, 6 AM

Sunday, April 23, 2017 — Ecclesiastical Council Meeting

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

Cost: \$50 includes lodging *and* 3 meals. Free Preview: [www.hillmontcamp.com](http://www.hillmontcamp.com)  
Location: Hillmont Christian Camp, 975 Hillmont Camp Road, White Bluff, TN 37187

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 12, 2017    | <u>\$5,770.00</u>   | <u>\$ 4,173.00</u> | <u>(\$1,597.00)</u>   |                      |
| March, 2017       | \$17,310.00         | \$13,575.71        | (\$3,734.29)          |                      |
| 2017 Year to Date | \$69,240.00         | \$64,887.13        |                       | (\$4,352.87)         |

### ~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

|          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| March 29 | Circle 3 | April 19 | Circle 6 |
| April 5  | Circle 4 | April 26 | Circle 7 |
| April 12 | Circle 5 | May 3    | Circle 1 |

### ~ Bible Readings ~

*Read... Pray... Sacrifice...* **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT** March 27 – April 2, 2017  
Ezekiel 37:1-14      Psalm 130      Romans 8:6-11      John 11:1-45