



METROPOLITAN
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH



BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, October 1, 2017

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:** Iron bars throw shadows across my forgotten cell. My family has not heard that I am still alive; the police will not say a word. My body bleeds; my mind rebels. "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel."
- People:** **We promise we will come. In a little while.**
- Leader:** Moonlight steals between the blinds and rests upon my face. My family has fled the sight of me; the doctor has spoken her muffled words to a nurse outside my door. I do not understand; pain swallows my mind. "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel."
- People:** **We promise we will come. In a little while.**
- Leader:** The television flickers, the sign-off anthem plays. My parents fought again tonight; my sister ran to her room. But walls cannot listen, and the world cannot wait. "O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel."
- People:** **We promise we will come. In a little while.**
- Leader:** God's ear aches with your empty promises; God's heart overflows with your forgotten pledges. The world's prisoners waste, the sick are left alone, the desperate disappear. Get yourselves a new heart! Find yourselves a new spirit!
- ALL:** "O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh. To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in your ways to go. Rejoice!
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!"
-

SONG OF LIBERATION

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

Lift every voice and sing, ‘til earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list’ning skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast’ning rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over the way that with tears has been watered, We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, Out of the gloomy past, ‘til now we stand at last, Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places our God where we met Thee, Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee; Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand, True to our God, true to our native land.

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

Billye Sanders

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 First Response Center programs, serving 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/resources to assist in our community’s spiritual growth and development;
- Maintain meeting space for ministries, including Girl Scouts, recovery/support groups, and 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!*

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.

CELEBRATION IN SONG

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

PROCLAMATION

THE WORD

Matthew 20:1-16

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

PREPARATORY PERIOD

OUR CALLING: *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 MESSAGE

THE SENIOR SERVANT

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think. A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21:23-32

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.

To Jesus, God breathed through all that is. The lily blossoming on the rocky hillside; the grass of the field and the garden path; the madman in chains or wandering among the barren rocks on the wastelands; the little baby in its mother's arms; the children at play or the old men quibbling in the marketplace – to Jesus, God breathed through all that is. To Jesus, God was Creator of life and the living substance; the Living Stream upon which all things moved; the Mind containing time, space, and all their multitudinous offsprings.

The time most precious for Jesus was at the close of day. This was the time for the long breath, when all the fragments left by the commonplace, when all the little hurts and the big aches could be absorbed, and the mind could be freed of the immediate demand, when voices that had been quieted by the long day's work could once more be heard, when there could be the deep sharing of the innermost secrets and the laying bare of the heart and mind. Yes, the time most precious for him was at the close of day.

But there were other times he treasured, "A great while before day," says the Book. The night had been long and wearisome because the day had been full of nibbling annoyances; the high resolve of some winged moment had frenzied, panicked, no longer sure, no longer free, and then had vanished as if it had never been. There was need, the utter urgency, for some fresh assurance, the healing touch of a healing wing. "A great while before day" he found his way to the quiet place in the hills. And prayed. **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, 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, October 1, 2017

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE can sometimes be hard to see when you consider the litany of horrors with which we are often bombarded regarding the issues confronting the next generation. All around us there are glaring examples of moral decay, social instability, financial insecurity, infrastructure deterioration, environmental uncertainty, spiritual weakness, global conflict, hunger, poverty and disease. Yet, when we consider the teachings of Jesus, we are reminded that we serve a God who is in the business of turning things around and bringing the best out of the worst. Howard Thurman captures this point very powerfully when he reminds us that “none of life’s contradictions are final.” Indeed, it is in this spirit that we might read *Matthew 21:23-32*. I especially felt this yesterday, as I was listening to a group of teenagers talk about their sexual practices in the twenty-first century, while at the same time I was thinking about a news story I had heard earlier in the day regarding The Beatles being allowed to perform in Israel, forty-three years after being banned for fear of their negative influence on the youth. When considering the two things together I realized how, throughout history, there have always been situations seemingly indicating that things are falling apart, when in the final analysis it is clear that the hand of God continues to move miraculously, to restore, renew, revive, resurrect and reconcile. With this we are reminded that there is **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**.

(Reprinted from September 28, 2008)

--Senior Servant

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 2; **Bible Study** 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Classes for Adults and Children

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series

Please join us Saturdays, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the First Response Center, 1219 9th Ave N, Nashville 37208.

THANK YOU for Supporting Metropolitan while you shop! It's that time again, *for the LAST time*, please RENEW your Enrollment in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program** as supporting Metropolitan Interdenominational Church First Response Center. Login to the Kroger website, enroll your Kroger Plus card, select Community Rewards, and select our organization; it's that easy! (Cynthia can help with this.) ~ Also, when you are shopping online, register your support for Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC with **Smile.Amazon** ...and always shop through the Smile.Amazon site.

HARVEST OF BLESSINGS! October 31st Candy collection starts now!
Members: please bring two (2) bags of wrapped treats in advance for this event.

Opportunity Now: Youth Employment Initiative *Visit:* <https://app-opportunitynow.workbay.net>

Friday evening Dancercise, 7p.m. // Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday 12–2p.m.

Saturday Worship, 6 – 7 p.m.; The Voices of Metropolitan will appear October 14th

Centering Prayer, Sundays 8:30-8:50 a.m.; Wednesdays 6:40-7:00 p.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, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$23,941.21	\$861.21	\$242.63
April, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$30,211.19	\$1,361.19	\$1,683.84
May, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$16,143.51	(\$6,936.49)	(\$5,252.65)
June, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$23,178.35	\$98.35	(\$5,154.30)
July, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$26,706.54	(\$2,143.46)	(\$7,297.76)
August, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$20,547.25	(\$2,532.75)	(\$9,830.51)
September 3, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 6,324.15	\$554.15	
September 10, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 6,954.12	\$1,184.12	
September 17, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$ 5,036.43	(\$733.57)	
September 17, 2017	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,599.05</u>	<u>(\$1,170.95)</u>	
September, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$22,913.75	(\$166.25)	
2017 Year to Date	\$224,930.00	\$214,934.24		(\$9,995.76)

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

October 11	Circle 3	November 1	Circle 6
October 18	Circle 4	November 8	Circle 7
October 25	Circle 5	November 15	Circle 1

~ Bible Readings ~

<i>Read... Pray... Sacrifice...</i>	18th Sunday after Pentecost	October 2-8, 2017	
<i>Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9</i>	<i>Psalms 19</i>	<i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i>	<i>Matthew 21:33-46</i>

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
Alma London	2929 Stanwyck Drive; Nashville, TN 37207	615-2297-2790 <i>Leave a message</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