



**METROPOLITAN
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
BUILDING ON OUR LEGACY OF LOVE**



Sunday, November 12, 2017

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 A Litany For Those Slain By Gun Violence in Texas on November 5, 2017

Leader: A sound is heard in Ramah, the sound of bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children. She refuses to be comforted, for they are dead.

Assembly: **We pray for the families of the victims who have been slain by gun violence.**

Leader: A sound is heard in every city. Communities are weeping generationally for their elders, children and loved ones. Our sons, like Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin. Our brothers, like Ezell Ford, Michael Brown and John Crawford. Our daughters, like Ayanna Jones, Miriam Carey. Our sisters, like Malisa Williams and Tarika Wilson.

Assembly: **As people of God, we weep for the lives of all of God's children who, instead of enjoying the sweetness of innocence become victims of hate, victims of war, and victims of violence.**

Leader: Now, let us rise up and interrupt these rushing waters of violence that leave children and communities wounded and paralyzed, traumatized by internal disintegration and state terror. Let us rise up and demand this nation abandon its affair with beliefs, practices and laws that are rooted in militarism.

Assembly: **We will rise up against laws rooted in evil that have no concern for life, nor any concern for God's love. We will rise up until justice rolls on like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream.**

Leader: Oh Lord, we commit ourselves to seeing all of your people the way that you see them. No matter their age or race, they are precious gifts made in your image, created with transformative purpose and unlimited promise.

Assembly: **And for that cause, we pledge to be hedges of protection for their lives, we pledge to stand against anything that threatens their potential or promise.**

ALL: **We embody the universal spirit of *Ubuntu*, "I am because we are and because we are, I am." We are all Rachel crying for the children! Therefore, we pledge to lock arms in solidarity with the families of the slain. We pledge to let our voices be heard all over this nation and the world, for we know we are called to do what is just and right.**

OPENING HYMN

“MY GOD IS REAL”

There are some things I may not know, there are some places I can't go,
But I am sure of this one thing, that God is real for I can feel Him deep within.

CHORUS:

Yes, God is real, real in my soul; Yes, God is real, for He has washed and made me whole;
His love for me is like pure gold, yes God is real for I can feel Him in my soul.

Some folks may doubt, some folk may scorn, all can desert and leave me alone,
But as for me I'll take God's part, for God is real and I can feel Him in my heart. *CHORUS*

I cannot tell just how you felt when Jesus took your sins away, But since that day,
yes, since that hour, God has been real for I can feel His holy pow'r. *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

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*

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.

Those who have been ill all summer seem to get a deepening sense of foreboding in the fall. It is the time of the changing of the guard. It is the season of the retreat of energy. It is a time of letting go. It is the period of the first exhaustion. It is the period of the storms, as if the wind itself becomes the Avenging Angel too impatient to wait for the coming of death and the quiet fading of bud and flower and leaf. The rain is not gentle in the fall, it is feverish, truculent, and vicious. All the fury of wind and rain are undertoned by a vast lull in tempo and the running down of all things. There is a chill in the air in the fall. It is not cold; it is chilly, as if the temperature cannot quite make up its mind. The chill is ominous, the forerunner of the vital coldness of winter.

*(From "Moments of Celebration," in *For The Inward Journey*, p. 241)*

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 11th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208 ~ *Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 280779, Nashville, TN 37228

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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, November 12, 2017

23RD 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.*

“WAKE UP!”

“WAKE UP!” is a command we are not usually eager to hear, since, more often than not, it comes as a directive that interrupts a moment of needed rest. Although sleep is an essential part of life, we sometimes find ourselves questioning whether or not the expenditure of energy that brings about our tiredness was worthwhile. There is a big difference between being sleepy as a result of meaningful work, and being fatigued because of activities that represent the foolish waste of time. The marshaling of our personal energy and resource is a discipline many of us do not deal with effectively. Indeed, a moment in history such as we currently find ourselves dealing with requires us to be more vigilant than ever before to stay focused on things of substance. The radical change we are witnessing in the world today has the potential to rectify past failures and establish a future grounded in hope. We cannot afford to be like the foolish bridesmaids referred to in Matthew 25. The time is at hand when the fulfillment of God’s transformative promises is unfolding all around us, and we have to be ready to receive this great gift. So, “WAKE UP!”

(Reprinted from November 9, 2008)

--Senior Servant

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

Alma Bumpers	Brookdale Assisted Living; 2025 Caldwell Drive, Apt #511; Goodlettsville, TN 37072	
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, November 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 1; 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

Sunday, November 19, 2017 ~ Ecclesiastical Council Meeting following worship

Thursday, November 23, 2017, 9:30-10:30 a.m. ~ Thanksgiving Worship

Sunday, December 3, 2017, 4:00-7:00 p.m. ~ World AIDS Sunday Celebration

Sunday, December 10, 2017 ~ Annual Church Meeting following worship

Sunday, December 17, 2017, 3:00-5:00 p.m. ~ Christmas Family Fellowship

Sunday, December 31, 2017, 10:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. ~ Watch Night Service

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.

Support Metropolitan while you shop:

- Enroll in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** Login to Kroger.com, enroll your Kroger Plus card, select Community Rewards, and select Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC; it's that easy!
- When shopping online, register your support for Metropolitan Interdenominational Church FRC with **Smile.Amazon** ...and always shop through the Smile.Amazon site.

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
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, 2017	\$23,080.00	\$22,913.75	(\$166.25)	(\$9,995.76)
October, 2017	\$28,850.00	\$25,684.39	(\$3,165.61)	(\$13,161.37)
November 5, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$5,715.15	(\$54.85)	
November, 2017	\$5,770.00	\$5,715.15	(\$54.85)	
2017 Year to Date	\$259,550.00	\$246,333.78		(\$13,216.22)

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

November 22	<i>No Midweek</i>	December 13	Circle 4
November 29	Circle 2	December 20	Circle 5
December 6	Circle 3	December 27	<i>No Midweek</i>

~ Bible Readings ~

Read... Pray... Sacrifice...	November 13 - 19, 2017
24th Sunday After Pentecost	
<i>Judges 4:1-7</i>	<i>Psalms 123 or 76</i>
<i>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</i>	<i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>