



STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, March 4, 2018

THIRD 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.

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:** The Lord delivers us from bondage that we might become the people of God.
- People:** **We shall have no god before us but the Lord.**
- Leader:** The Lord delivers us from bondage that we might become the people of God.
- People:** **We shall worship no image in the Lord's name.**
- Leader:** The Lord delivers us from bondage that we might become the people of God.
- People:** **We shall celebrate the Sabbath in the Lord's name.**
- Leader:** The Lord delivers us from bondage that we might become the people of God.
- People:** **We shall honor our parents in the Lord's name.**
- Leader:** The Lord delivers us from bondage that we might become the people of God.
- People:** **We shall serve our neighbors in the Lord's name.**
- ALL:** **Let the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, and the deeds of our hands be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.**
-

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

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.

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.

The core of the analysis of Jesus is that man is a child of God, the God of life that sustains all of nature and guarantees all the intricacies of the life-process itself. Jesus suggests that it is quite unreasonable to assume that God, whose creative activity is expressed even in such details as the hairs of a man's head, would exclude from his concern the life, the vital spirit, of the man himself. This idea—that God is mindful of the individual—is of tremendous import in dealing with fear as a disease. In this world the socially disadvantaged man is constantly given a negative answer to the most important personal questions upon which mental health depends: "Who am I? What am I?"

The first has to do with a basic self-estimate, a profound sense of belonging, of counting. If a man feels that he does not belong in the way in which it is perfectly normal for other people to belong, then he develops a deep sense of insecurity. When this happens to a person, it provides the basic material for what the psychologist calls an inferiority complex. It is quite possible for a man to have no sense of personal inferiority as such, but at the same time to be dogged by a sense of social inferiority. The awareness of being a child of God tends to stabilize the ego and results in a new courage, fearlessness, and power. I have seen it happen again and again.

(From "Jesus and the Disinherited," in *For the Inward Journey*, p. 147)

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>Worshiping, 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

2128 11th 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

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



STRETCHING OUR FAITH
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, March 4, 2018

THIRD 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.

ONE

Two weeks ago on Monday, February 12, 2018, while sitting in the cemetery where many of my family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances are buried, I had the very powerful awareness of how we are all bound together by one great Spirit that has connected all of humankind since before “the foundation of the world” was laid. Walking among the memorial markers, I realized that in spite of the many different names etched in stone, there was but one Creator from which all life comes.

Even in the graveyard, our tendency to fragment and divide has crept into our reality. There were sections where people of different races, nationalities, cultures, and classes were buried. Some of the tombstones were inscribed using characters of foreign languages that were unintelligible to me, but yet the simple symbol of the cross spoke volumes about the oneness of the Spirit of God. If only we would realize the oneness of all creation, how different the world could be. The only way we will ever be able to rise above and move beyond the issues that divide us and give rise to war, conflict, violence, hatred, and strife is to learn to celebrate the Spirit of the living God, who is “the tie that binds.” Jesus’ prayer for us is that we would be ONE.

--Senior Servant

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 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

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

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – Sunday, March 11, 2018 8:00 a.m. (breakfast!)

Praying Through the Night for the Healing of AIDS

6-7p Saturday Worship, Rev. Sonnye Dixon; 7-8p Hobson UMC; 8-9p Rev. Alston; 9-10p **Circle 5**; 10-11p Rev. Lee; 12p-1a **Voices** of Metropolitan; 1-2a **Circle 1**; 3-4 a **Circle 3**; 4-5a **Circle 2**; 5-6a **Circle 7**; 6-7a **Circle 4**; 7-8a **Circle 6**

United Way Employee Giving Campaign: Please designate #3255 to support the First Response Center.
For the United 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 appear January 13th

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 |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2017 Year End | \$305,710.00 | \$294,948.21 | | (\$10,761.79) |
| January, 2018 | \$23,080.00 | \$19,402.73 | (\$3,677.27) | (\$3,677.27) |
| February 4, 2018 | \$5,770.00 | \$7,113.75 | \$1,343.75 | |
| February 11, 2018 | \$5,770.00 | \$4,021.12 | (\$1,748.88) | |
| February 18, 2018 | \$5,770.00 | \$5,086.40 | (\$683.60) | |
| February 25, 2018 | \$5,770.00 | \$6,126.00 | \$356.00 | |
| February, 2018 | \$23,080.00 | \$22,347.27 | (\$732.73) | |
| 2018 Year to Date | \$46,160.00 | \$41,754.00 | | (\$4,410.00) |

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| March 14 | Circle 2 | April 4 | Circle 5 |
| March 21 | Circle 3 | April 11 | Circle 6 |
| March 28 | Circle 4 | April 18 | Circle 7 |

~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Leon McKinley Corder | 1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004 | Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please. |
| Christopher Davis | 202 Emmitt Avenue; Madison, TN 37115 | 615-939-9454 |
| Malinda Hainey-Bailey | 1002 Stockwell Street; Nashville, TN 37207 | 615-227-6812 |
| 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 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| BIBLE READINGS | <i>Read... Pray... Sacrifice...</i> | 4th Sunday in Lent | March 5-11, 2018 |
| <i>Numbers 21:4-9</i> | <i>Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22</i> | <i>Ephesians 2:1-10</i> | <i>John 3:14-21</i> |