

# **STRETCHING OUR FAITH**

## **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

**Sunday, March 18, 2018**

**FIFTH 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.*

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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**

*Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts*

- 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 children who have been slain by gun violence.**
- Leader:** A sound is heard in every city. Communities are weeping generationally for their children. Children like Emmett Till and Trayvon Martin who go out to get candy, never again to return to the sweetness of home life.
- Assembly:** **As people of God, we weep for the lives of all 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 interpret these rushing waters of violence that leave children wounded and paralyzed. Let us rise up and demand abolishment of laws that are rooted in militarism, fueled by capitalism and justified by racism.
- Assembly:** **We will rise up against laws that are rooted in evil that have neither concern for life, nor any concern for Your 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 children 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 beauty.
- 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 spirit of Ubuntu, I am because we are and because we are, I am." Therefore, we pledge to lock arms and witness the birth of the next great generation. We will occupy the heart. We will be free at last.**
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## OPENING HYMN

## *“THE NAME OF JESUS”*

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1. The name of Jesus is so sweet, I love its music to repeat;  
It makes my joys full and complete, the precious name of Jesus.

**CHORUS: “Jesus,” O how sweet the name! “Jesus,” every day the same;  
“Jesus,” let all saints proclaim its worthy praise forever.**

2. I love the name of Him whose heart knows all my griefs, and bears a part;  
Who bids all anxious fears depart – I love the name of Jesus. CHORUS

3. That name I fondly love to hear, it never fails my heart to cheer;  
Its music dries the fallen tear; exalt the name of Jesus. CHORUS

4. No word of man can ever tell how sweet the name I love so well;  
Oh, let its praises ever swell, Oh, praise the name of Jesus. CHORUS

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## WELCOME

*Cadette 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!**

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## CONCERNS OF CHURCH AND CITY

*Billye Sanders*

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## GIRL SCOUT PROMISE

*Girl Scouts & Leaders*

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## GIRL SCOUT LAW

*Girl Scouts & Leaders*

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## OFFERTORY

*Brownie & Junior Girl Scouts*

*“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 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 Metropolitan Praise Dancers, 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!**

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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

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### THE WORD

*John 12:20-33*

*Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts*

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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

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### 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.*

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# WALK IN THE LIGHT

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

***John 12:20-33***

## *John 12:20-33*

## THE MESSAGE

***Rev. Dr. Amy E. Steele***

*Assistant Dean for Student Life, Vanderbilt Divinity School*

## WAITING FOR THE WORLD TO CHANGE

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Isaiah 40:28-32*

### *Isaiah 40:28-32*

## SERMON NOTES

[illegible]

## 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.

### PRESENTATION TO THE SPEAKER

*Daisy Girl Scouts*

#### THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Communion Prayer*

*Girl Scouts*

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.

#### STRENGTH TO BE FREE

"Give me the strength to be free." The thought of being free comes upon us sometimes with such power that under its impact we lose the meaning that the thought implies. Often, "being free" means to be where we are not at the moment, to be relieved of a particular set of chores or responsibilities that are bearing heavily upon minds, to be surrounded by a careless rapture with no reminders of costs of any kind, to be on the open road with nothing overhead but the blue sky and whole days in which to roam. For many, "being free" means movement, change, reordering.

To be free may not mean any of these things. ... Often to be free means the ability to deal with the realities of one's situation so as not to be overcome by them. It is the manifestation of a quality of being and living that results not only from understanding of one's situation but also from wisdom in dealing with it. It takes no strength to give up, to accept shackles of circumstance so that they become shackles of soul, to shrug the shoulders in bland acquiescence. This is easy. But do not congratulate yourself that you have solved anything. In simple language, you have sold out, surrendered, given up. It takes strength to affirm the high prerogative of your spirit. And you will find that if you do, a host of invisible angels will wing to your defense, and the glory of the living God will envelop your surroundings because in you He has come into His own.

(from "Strength to Be Free," in *For the Inward Journey*, p.26)

**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

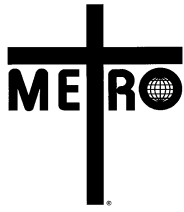
**Phone:** (615) 72METRO (726-3876) ~ **Fax:** (615) 259-9210 ~ **website:** [www.micwhosoever.org](http://www.micwhosoever.org)

**Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, 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**



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**THE FACES OF JESUS**

THE FACES OF JESUS is the title of one of my favorite books. In its two hundred plus pages it depicts images of Jesus that reflect the way in which all people tend to see him as a person with features and characteristics like themselves. Whether the appearance is African, Asian, European or otherwise there is no doubt of the common effort to capture a picture of the one we attempt to follow in our faith. This became especially clear for us at Metropolitan when Dr. Charles McGruder was inspired to sculpt the "whosoever" statue overlooking our baptismal pool. When he first brought it into the sanctuary all of us immediately recognized its beauty, but at the same time we realized that it was not consistent with our endeavor to not have ethnic-specific images of Christ. Initially I was reluctant to say anything about my concern for fear of insulting the artist. However, when I did bring it to his attention he understood perfectly and took his wonderful work of art back to the studio where he transformed it to reflect the spirit of our community of believers. Even though it was beautiful before, we all agreed that its magnificence was enhanced by the fact that everyone who looked into the perfectly reworked face of Jesus could see their own face. If, like the Greeks in John 12:21&22, there were those who came looking for Jesus today might they be able to see in us the face of Our Lord such that we might be for them THE FACES OF JESUS.

*(Reprinted from 03/22/2015)*

**--Senior Servant**

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

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 3; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

**Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series** ~ *Please join us* on Saturday mornings, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the First Response Center, 1219 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Nashville 37208

**Ecclesiastical Council Meeting** ~ Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

*Households: Please contribute 2 bags wrapped candies by 3/28/18*

**HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP** ~ Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 12:10–12:50 p.m.

**SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST** ~ Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

**HOLY SATURDAY WORSHIP** ~ Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** ~ Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 a.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - for ages 1 – 12 ~ Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, following services  
Children should bring an Easter basket or bag for their finds

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Wellness Event** ~ Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

**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 13<sup>th</sup>

**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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$22,347.27	(\$732.73)	(\$4,410.00)
March 4, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$5,156.00	(\$614.00)	
March 4, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$4,384.38	(\$1,385.62)	
February, 2018	\$11,540.00	\$9,540.38	(\$1,999.62)	
2018 Year to Date	\$57,700.00	\$51,294.38		(\$6,405.62)

### ~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

March 28	Circle 4	April 18	Circle 7
April 4	Circle 5	April 25	Circle 1
April 11	Circle 6	May 2	Circle 2

## BIBLE READINGS

*Read... Pray... Sacrifice...*

March 12-18, 2018

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

*Psalms 51:1-12*

*Hebrews 5:5-10*

*John 12:20-33*