



## **STRETCHING OUR FAITH**

### **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

**Sunday, April 8, 2018**

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

#### **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**

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*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**

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**Leader:** The company of believers is of one heart and mind.

**People:** **With great power they witness to the resurrection of Jesus.**

**Leader:** They do not hoard possessions, but distribute to each according to need.

**People:** **With great power they witness to the resurrection of Jesus.**

**Leader:** They do not clamor for recognition, but outdo one another in showing honor.

**People:** **With great power they witness to the resurrection of Jesus.**

**Leader:** They do not stand in awe of the rich, but they go the second mile for the lowly.

**People:** **With great power they witness to the resurrection of Jesus.**

**Leader:** They pay the earthly powers their dues, but they obey God rather than rulers.

**People:** **With great power they witness to the resurrection of Jesus.**

**Leader:** They are too strong to abuse their freedom, yet they are too mindful of the weak to indulge their strength.

**ALL:** **How good and pleasant it is when disciples, like Christ, please not self but God.**

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## OPENING HYMN

## “BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD”

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Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will – to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly Thine,  
Till all this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity.

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## 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!**

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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 (telephone, internet, heat, water), 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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## 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**

*John 20:19-31*

## **THE WORD**

### **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***

### **PRELUDE TO PENTECOST**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

***John 20:19-31***

### **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.

Effective human relations require a kind of total understanding. This is the area of "feel," of heart, of sensing. The content of total understanding is made up of details of partial understanding, but those details are caught up in a creative synthesis which takes in the quality of intuition. When you say concerning a person, "But that's the way he is" – what is working is your total understanding. It is the total understanding that causes you to be increasingly accurate as to your timing. Have you had the experience of saying something to someone with whom you had a very satisfying relationship and then, even before the sound of your voice disappeared, there was an instant in which you knew that you had chosen the wrong time? What you had to say was true, to be sure, but the timing was so bad that the true thing became error before your very eyes. Total understanding tends to alert one as to timing; it enables one to pick up overtones from the other person, which are precious guides in choosing *the* word to say and *the* tone in which to say it.

**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	<b>INCLUSIVE:</b> <i>Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting</i>
<b>LOVING:</b> <i>Worshiping, Comforting, Caring</i>	<b>RECONCILING:</b> <i>Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming</i>
<b>GIVING:</b> <i>Sharing, Supporting, Volunteering</i>	<b>FELLOWSHIP:</b> <i>Celebrating, Belonging, Participating</i>
<b>SERVING:</b> <i>Helping, Ministering, Providing</i>	<b>LIBERATING:</b> <i>Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating</i>

### **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

**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, April 8, 2018

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*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 FIRST FOUR WORDS

THE FIRST FOUR WORDS Jesus speaks when he appears to the disciples after the resurrection represent a declaration we should claim daily. "Peace be with you," is such a simple statement, yet it has profound meaning for all of us as we find ourselves dealing with the realities of everyday life. Every second, minute and hour of the day brings with it a multitude of challenges as we are continually bombarded with the evidence of things transpiring all around us that are inconsistent with what we understand as God's will for humankind. In the midst of the violence, suffering and injustice we see evidenced in every direction we turn, it is important to be able to hear the resonating sound of THE FIRST FOUR WORDS Jesus spoke to his followers. "Peace be with you." He knew that the mandate to be witnesses to the good news would require addressing situations where the overwhelming disparity of power would mean standing up to the brokers of war, oppression and despair without being undone by our own fear and anxiety. With the memory of "the seven last words" spoken from the cross still ringing in our ears, it is essential to frame our response to those utterances of agony with "Peace be with you," THE FIRST FOUR WORDS.

*(Reprinted from 04/6/2009)*

***--Senior Servant***

**BIBLE READINGS** *Read... Pray... Sacrifice...* 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter April 9-15, 2018  
*Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48*

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

Alma Bumpers	3100 Richmond Hill Drive; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-2826
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 Haynie-Bailey	1002 Stockell Street; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-6812
Jay Lane	243 Yelton Court; Nashville, TN 37211	615-474-4239
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Jerry Priddy, Jr.	2430 Underwood Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-327-9138
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, April 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 6; 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

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

**Family Movie Night ~ Disney/Pixar's COCO** Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

**Vacation Bible School 2018 ~ 24/7: Jesus Makes a Way Every Day!**

Monday–Friday June 4-8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:00 p.m. & Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

*Preregistration for classes is required!* Weeknights, dinner 5:30-6:15, & classes for ALL ages 6:15-8:00 p.m.; Saturday cookout 5-6p & Finale Presentations 6-7p

**Mothers' Day** Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, during worship

**METRO Scholars Sunday** Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, during worship

**Fathers' Day** Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, during worship

**Homecoming Weekend** Friday - Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, Join us each date!

**One-Night Revival** Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Meeting House

**A Day in the Park** Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Edwin Warner Park, area 10

**Homecoming Worship** Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. at the Metropolitan Meeting House

**Thank you for Supporting Metropolitan while you shop!** Between December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the 34 households who have Kroger Plus cards registered to earn Community Rewards for Metropolitan Interdenominational Church earned \$214.45 for the First Response Center!

**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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$18,651.38	(\$4,428.62)	(\$8,834.62)
April 1, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$7,609.10</u>	<u>\$1,839.10</u>	
April, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$7,609.10	\$1,839.10	
2018 Year to Date	\$75,010.00	\$68,014.48		(\$6,995.52)

### ~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

April 18	Circle 7	May 9	Circle 3
April 25	Circle 1	May 16	Circle 4
May 2	Circle 2	May 23	Circle 5