



STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, April 15, 2018

THIRD 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.

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: O God, who through your power at work in Jesus made the old feel young and the young feel mature, we pray for the outpouring of your power upon our generation.

People: **Baptize our generation with the spirit with which Jesus baptized his.**

Leader: Instead of lamenting our inability to work miracles of healing, make us supporters of the medicine that can make the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the blind see.

People: **Baptize our generation!**

Leader: Instead of lamenting our inability to turn children into geniuses, make us backers of the education that can inspire the gifted to care, the average to think, and the slow to try.

People: **Baptize our generation!**

Leader: Instead of lamenting our inability overnight to rid the world of poverty, make us shapers of the programs that will provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and clothing for the deprived.

People: **Baptize our generation!**

Leader: Instead of lamenting our inability to tame hardened criminals, make us designers of plans that can turn anger into resolve, despair into hope, and aimlessness into ambition.

People: **Baptize our generation!**

Leader: Instead of lamenting our inability to make our neighbors take notice of us, make us doers of deeds that will turn their attention to you.

ALL: **Baptize our generation in the spirit with which Jesus baptized his. Pour out your power upon us!**

OPENING HYMN

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

“Great is Thy Faithfulness,” O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not, As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

CHORUS: “Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!”

Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness, To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

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 (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 others at-risk;
- 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!

CELEBRATION IN SONG

The Voices of Metropolitan
Reginald Green, Minister of Music

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.

PROCLAMATION

THE WORD

Luke 24:13-49

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.

OPEN MINDED

THE MESSAGE

*Donna Krupkin Whitney, Pastoral Assistant***“WALK WITH ME”**

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:13-49

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.

I SEEK ROOM FOR PEACE

I seek the enlargement of my heart that there may be room for Peace.

Already there is room enough for chaos. There is in every day's experience much that makes for confusion and bewilderment. Often I do not understand quite how my relations with others become frayed and chaotic. Sometimes this chaos is a positive thing; it means that something new, creative, and whole is beginning to pull together the tattered fragments of my relationship with a person and to fashion it into something which delights the spirit and makes glad the heart. Sometimes the chaos is negative, a sign of degeneration in a relationship once meaningful and good. There is room enough for chaos.

But the need of my heart is for room for Peace: Peace of mind that inspires singleness of purpose; Peace of heart that quiets all fears and uproots all panic; Peace of spirit that filters through all confusions and robs them of their power. These I seek *now*. I know that here in this quietness my life can be infused with Peace.

Therefore, before God, I seek the enlargement of my heart at this moment, that there may be room for Peace.

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: *Worshiping, 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

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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



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RESURRECTION POWER

As this season of resurrection continues to unfold, it is an important time for us to reconsider all of the everyday blessings we have as a result of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. In our worldly experience we primarily think of power in terms of numbers, resources, knowledge and physical strength. More often than not, this translates into wealth, authority and control, but with Jesus we find that true power lies in our ability to be governed in all that we do by the spirit of God's love. It is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit alone that allows us to have joy and peace and freedom and patience and kindness and generosity and all of the other gifts God has given us through our relationship with Jesus. When we live as resurrection people, the exercise of our God-given power impacts the world in a fashion that disarms the forces of evil and empowers the lost and the left out such that God's affirmation of their being is brought to its fullness. God has put all power at our disposal, and we need to use it NOW!

(Reprinted from Sunday, April 15, 2007)

--Senior Servant

BIBLE READINGS

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

4TH Sunday of Easter

April 16-22, 2018

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

~ 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. No visitors, 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
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 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 7; **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 9th Ave N, Nashville 37208

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

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

Monday–Friday June 4-8th, 5:30-8:00 p.m. & Saturday, June 9th, 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

Register online at: http://www.micwhosoever.org/_forms/view/36191

Mothers' Day Sunday, May 13th, during worship

METRO Scholars Sunday Sunday, June 10th, during worship

Fathers' Day Sunday, June 17th, during worship

Homecoming Weekend Friday - Sunday, July 13th – 15th, Join us each date!

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

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

Homecoming Worship Sunday, July 15th 9:30 a.m. at the Metropolitan Meeting House

Thank you for Supporting Metropolitan while you shop! Between December 1st, 2017 and February 28th, 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 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, 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	\$5,770.00	\$7,609.10	\$1,839.10	
April 8, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$8,311.66</u>	<u>\$2,541.66</u>	
April, 2018	\$11,540.00	\$15,920.76	\$4,380.76	
2018 Year to Date	\$80,780.00	\$76,326.14		(\$4,453.86)

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

April 25	Circle 1	May 16	Circle 4
May 2	Circle 2	May 23	Circle 5
May 9	Circle 3	May 30	Circle 6