



## **STRETCHING OUR FAITH**

### **METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**

**Sunday, May 13, 2018 ~ MOTHER'S DAY**

### **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND ASCENSION**

#### **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:** Sisters and brothers, call forth from your midst a number of people, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, and commission them to proclaim God's truth.

**People:** **Having that gift, let them proclaim God's truth with imagination.**

**Leader:** Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to serve.

**People:** **Having that gift, let them serve with vigor.**

**Leader:** Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to teach.

**People:** **Having that gift, let them teach with understanding.**

**Leader:** Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to encourage.

**People:** **Having that gift, let them encourage with patience.**

**Leader:** Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to give aid.

**People:** **Having that gift, let them give aid with zeal.**

**Leader:** Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to do acts of mercy.

**People:** **Having that gift, let them do acts of mercy with cheerfulness.**

**ALL:** **Spirit of God, grant us the vision to see our gifts and the desire to enlist them in your service.**

---

---

## OPENING HYMN

## “I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY”

---

I love to tell the story Of unseen things above, Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love;  
I love to tell the story Because I know 'tis true,  
It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.

### REFRAIN:

*I love to tell the story! 'Twill be my theme in glory To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.*

I love to tell the story – More wonderful it seems Than all the golden fancies Of all our golden dreams;  
I love to tell the story It did so much for me,  
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story – 'Tis pleasant to repeat What seems, each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet;  
I love to tell the story For some have never heard  
The message of salvation From God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story, For those who know it best Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest;  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long.

---

---

## 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.**

---



## 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.

"No one ever wins a fight." The wisdom of these telling words becomes clearer as the days unfold. There is something seductive about the quickening sense of power that comes when the fight is on. There is a bewitching something that people call honor. Honor is often a strange mixture of many things—pride, fear, hate, shame, courage, truth, cowardice—many things.

"No one ever wins a fight." This suggests that there is always another way; or does it mean that people can always choose the weapons we shall use? Not to fight at all is to choose a weapon by which one fights. Perhaps the authentic moral stature of a person is determined by their choice of weapons which they use in their fight against the adversary. Of all weapons, love is the most deadly and devastating, and few there be who dare trust their fate in its hands.

*-- Howard Thurman*

<b>CORE VALUES</b>	Our core values define the framework within which we live out the ideals of <b>Our Calling</b> 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>Worshipping, 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](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. Donna Whitney,***

***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, May 13, 2018**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND ASCENSION ~ MOTHER'S DAY**

*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.*

**PRUNING**

PRUNING is one of those common practices which fit into the category of being counterintuitive. At first glance, it does not seem likely that you would create greater growth by cutting off branches you have seen bear fruit in the past. Something at a "gut level" says this is not the right action to take, yet anyone who knows anything about gardening will tell you it works every time. This has proven to be true with a beautiful rose bush I planted for Billye as a Mother's Day gift five years ago. Only once did I remember to cut it back as prescribed by the growing instructions, but in spite of my negligence, the bush continues to flourish with spectacular blossoms because the hand of God has moved in the harshness of winter to accomplish that which I forgot. Jesus' metaphor of the True Vine in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of John reminds us how necessary it is for us to embrace God's pruning in our lives as an essential part of our spiritual growth. We may not always relish the idea, but we cannot experience the release of all the potentials within us without the PRUNING. To be the agents for change and transformation that is so desperately needed in the world we must surrender to God's PRUNING.

*(Reprinted from Sunday, May 10, 2009)*

*--Senior Servant*

**BIBLE READINGS**

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

**Day of Pentecost**

**May 14-20, 2018**

*Acts 2:1-21*

*Psalms 104:24-34, 35b*

*Romans 8:22-27*

*John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*

**~ 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, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$31,119.22	\$2,269.22	(\$6,565.40)
May 6, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$6,452.49</u>	<u>\$682.49</u>	
May, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$6,452.49	\$682.49	
2018 Year to Date	\$103,860.00	\$97,977.09		(\$5,882.91)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner by Circle 4; 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

**METRO Scholars Data Collection Forms** are on the table in the vestibule.

Return **COMPLETED** forms *by Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>*. Also, Graduating High School Seniors, the Roberta Sherrill White Scholarship applications are on the board there. *Deadline June 3<sup>rd</sup>*.

**Clean up, Paint up, Fix up Day ~ with Fish Fry & Barbecue**

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Ecclesiastical Council Meeting** Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, following worship

**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

Register online at: <http://www.micwhosoever.org/forms/view/36191>

**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

**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 your Kroger Plus card in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**.
- When shopping online, shop through **Smile.Amazon.com**.

**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. // **Centering Prayer**, Sunday 8:30-8:50 a.m.; Wednesday 6:40-7:00 p.m.

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

<b>Leon McKinley Corder</b>	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
<b>John Cross</b>	3441 White Pine Drive; Nashville, TN 37214	Send prayers and cards, only, please.
<b>Christopher Davis</b>	202 Emmitt Avenue; Madison, TN 37115	615-939-9454
<b>Jay Lane</b>	243 Yelton Court; Nashville, TN 37211	615-474-4239
<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>Nelson Wade</b>	301 Millwood Drive; Nashville, TN 37217	615-95711149
<b>Emmilye Wilson-Walton</b>	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375

~ **Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule** ~

May 23	Circle 5	June 13	Circle 1
May 30	Circle 6	June 20	Circle 2
June 6	Circle 7	June 27	Circle 3