



STRETCHING OUR FAITH
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, September 9, 2018
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 gives words the power to spread joy or sorrow, help us bridle our tongues.
- People:** Let our words give wings to our faith, supporting those in need of encouragement and challenging those in need of discipline.
- Leader:** When they who declare the easy lie to a friendly crowd turn to us,
- People:** Let us speak to them words of challenge.
- Leader:** When they who proclaim the hard truth to an angry crowd turn to us,
- People:** Let us speak to them words of support.
- Leader:** When people rail against the poor and disadvantaged,
- People:** Let us speak to them words of challenge.
- Leader:** When people speak up for the abused and oppressed,
- People:** Let us speak to them words of support.
- Leader:** When the champions of evil wax strong from vulgar popularity,
- People:** Let us speak to them words of challenge.
- Leader:** When the champions of good grow weary from social neglect,
- People:** Let us speak to them words of support.
- Leader:** O Lord, you have put into our mouths the power of death and life.
- ALL:** Help us, dear God, so to use this power as to spread life and not death.
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OPENING HYMN

“SINCE JESUS CAME INTO MY HEART”

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart;
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought, since Jesus came into my heart.

**CHORUS: Since Jesus came into my heart, since Jesus came into my heart;
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll, since Jesus came into my heart.**

I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray, since Jesus came into my heart;
And my sins which were many are all washed away, since Jesus came into my heart. **CHORUS**

I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure, since Jesus came into my heart,
And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure, since Jesus came into my heart. **CHORUS**

There's a light in the valley of death now for me, since Jesus came into my heart,
And the gates of the City beyond I can see, since Jesus came into my heart. **CHORUS**

I shall go there to dwell in that City I know, since Jesus came into my heart,
And I'm happy, so happy as onward I go, since Jesus came into my heart. **CHORUS**

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

(We are now accepting tithes and offerings by credit and debit card in the sanctuary.)

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, & events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;

**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.

There are at least two areas of need in which all people are involved. One is the insistence upon finding something to worship. There is something native to the human spirit that insists upon the offering of one's precious gifts, precious possessions, to something outside of oneself, something that is regarded as supremely worthwhile. What do **you** worship? To what do you bring the most precious increments of your spirit, your mind and your possessions? Whatever it is that holds so central a place in your reaction to living, that is your God!

There is also the need of being a part of the human family, the human race. I am aware that all the race, in one very meaningful sense, breathes through me – I am part of the very pulsating rhythm of existence. I am not a thing apart; I am not a separate unit. If I am cut off so that only my little life breathes through me, only my little hopes course through my mind and spirit, only my little thoughts penetrate my brain, then life for me is not worth living. I must have a sense of deep corporate vitality. Therefore, I must manage somehow to keep the lines of communication open between me and the human family. How wonderful it is if I can do this by love, by warmth, by kindling flame of abiding fellowship! Often, if it cannot be done that way, there is resort to hate, to antagonism, to belligerency. The shouting of defiance is the call of my heart for kinship. If a person cannot become the center of an increasing affection, in desperation they become the core of a great rejection. For better or for worse, there is but one family under God and I am a member of 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	INCLUSIVE: <i>Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting</i>
LOVING: <i>Worshipping, 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

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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. 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, September 9, 2018

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

EVERY PLACE YOU SET FOOT

“EVERY PLACE YOU SET FOOT” was promised by God to be the territory the Israelites would occupy as long as they “diligently observed the entire commandment” they had been given. The promise was claimed and translated into the immediate movement towards seizing the land of many people, but the mandated criteria to do so in the spirit of “loving the Lord your God, and serving God with all of your heart and with all your soul” got lost along the way. Through Jesus this word became flesh as he took his ministry beyond the boundaries that fragment and divide humankind. His encounter with the Syrophenician woman came about as he ministered in a part of the world that was not common ground for his people. The stumbling blocks of tradition, custom and cultural misunderstanding translated into a situation where the miraculous possibility of the moment was almost lost. However, Jesus’ capacity to respond with compassion and unconditional love teaches us a lesson that we desperately need to learn. Our claim to be “more than conquerors” needs to be understood in the context of our responsibility to “share God’s love with the world.” Just as we see Jesus in *Mark 7:24-37* moving to chart new territory, we too must go forward with a sense of urgency to demonstrate God’s radically inclusive love, humbly accepting the promise in the words “EVERY PLACE YOU SET FOOT.”

(Reprinted from September 6, 2009)

– *Senior Servant*

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

September 19	Circle 7	October 10	Circle 3
September 26	Circle 1	October 17	Circle 4
October 3	Circle 2	October 24	Circle 5

Opportunity Now: Youth Employment Initiative Visit: <https://app-opportunitynow.workbay.net>

Support Metropolitan while you shop:

- Enroll in the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**: Login to Kroger.com, enroll your Kroger Plus card, select Community Rewards, then 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 6; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

Girl Scouts Sign-up Day! Saturday, September 15, 2018 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.,
for information see flyer on bulletin board or contact Gail Clemons or Pat Eutsey

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series ~ resumption date To Be Determined

3rd Annual Prayer Breakfast

featuring Rev. Lisa Hammonds, St. John AME Church, Nashville, TN
Saturday, September 22, 2018 ~ 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Registration forms are on the table in the vestibule. Place completed forms in the box.

Ecclesiastical Council Meeting ~ Sunday, September 23rd, following worship

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.

BIBLE READINGS

Read... Pray... Sacrifice... 17th Sunday after Pentecost September 10 - 16, 2018
Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38

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 ~

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers. <i>No visitors</i> , please.
John Cross	3441 White Pine Drive; Nashville, TN 37214	Send prayers and cards, only, please.
Martha Hill	c/o Bethany Healthcare Center; 421 Ocala Drive; Nashville, TN 37206	
Etoile Jordan	907 Lawrence Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204	615-385-3969
Jay Lane		615-474-4239
Alexis Marks	2303 Barclay Drive; Nashville, TN 37206	615-438-7891
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Anna Nickerson	c/o The Health Center at Richland Place, room 307; 504 Elmington Avenue; Nashville, TN 37205	
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375

~ 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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$22,030.32	(\$1,049.68)	(\$7,515.08)
June, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,879.80	(\$3,002.20)	(\$10,815.28)
July, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$21,500.93	(\$7,349.07)	(\$18,164.35)
August, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$37,766.18	\$14,686.18	(\$3,478.17)
September 2, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$5,597.00</u>	<u>(\$173.00)</u>	
September, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$5,597.00	(\$173.00)	
2018 Year to Date	\$201,950.00	\$198,298.83		(\$3,651.17)