



STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, October 7, 2018

Twentieth 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:** The Lord God declared, "It is not good that you be alone." So out of the ground God formed all creatures,
- People:** And God brought them to us, to assign them their names.
- Leader:** We foraged with the beasts of the field,
- People:** And then we pronounced them "cattle."
- Leader:** We soared among the birds of the air,
- People:** And then we pronounced them "eagles."
- Leader:** Our tongues were anointed with this strange power to name,
- People:** To bear witness to the glory of God.
- Leader:** But now the very beasts we christened are threatened with extinction.
- People:** And the very birds our tongues baptized are perishing at our hands.
- Leader:** The world cries out for salvation, and the fateful word shall fall from our lips:
- People:** Shall we proclaim it the promised land, its rivers flowing with milk and honey? Or shall we decree it a wasteland, its wounds flowing with wormwood and gall?
- Leader:** The Lord God declares, "It is not good that you be alone." So out of the ground God fashions all flesh.
- People:** And God brings us to the creatures, to assign us *our* name: shall judgment or mercy fall from their lips?
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SONG OF LIBERATION

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

Lift every voice and sing, ‘til earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list’ning skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast’ning rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over the way that with tears has been watered, We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, Out of the gloomy past, ‘til now we stand at last, Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places our God where we met Thee, Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee; Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand, True to our God, true to our native land.

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.

"To the one that waits, all things reveal themselves, provided that they have the courage not to deny in the darkness what they have seen in the light."

Waiting is a window opening on many landscapes. For some, waiting means the cessation of all activity when energy is gone and exhaustion is all that the heart can manage... For some, waiting is a time of intense preparation for the next leg of the journey. Here at last comes a moment when forces can be realigned and a new attack upon an old problem can be set in order... For some, waiting is a sense of disaster of the soul. It is a kind of emotional blackout in the final moment before the crash – it is the passage through the Zone of Treacherous Quiet...

For many, waiting is something more than all of this. It is the experience of recovering balance when catapulted from one's place. It is the quiet forming of a pattern of recollection in which there is called into focus the fragmentary values from myriad encounters of many kinds in a lifetime of living. It is to watch a gathering darkness until all light is swallowed up completely without the power to interfere or bring a halt. Then to continue one's journey in the darkness with one's footsteps guided by the illumination of remembered radiance is to know courage of a peculiar kind – the courage to demand that light continue to be light even in the surrounding darkness. To walk in the light while darkness invades, envelops, and surrounds is to wait on the Lord. This is to know the renewal of strength. This is to walk and faint not.

(From *For The Inward Journey*)

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

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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, October 7, 2018

Twentieth 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.

WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER

“WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER” is a very powerful statement. This is especially true in light of the fact that covenants are central to the biblical text, from beginning to end. Even the two major divisions of the bible are referred to as the old covenant and the new covenant. Yet, as important as this concept is to our faith, we often find ourselves easily given to breaking promises and vows. Perhaps the mentality of the secular world which suggests “contracts are made to be broken” has spilled over into our spiritual lives in a fashion that we have to be careful not to take lightly. In the societal reality of Jesus’ ancestral experience, marriage was often driven by biases, traditions and attitudes that compromised the wonder of a relationship grounded in the belief of being WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER. The financial considerations, the cultural prescription for procreation and the prohibition on relationships with people seen as being outside of the circle of “the chosen” are but a few of the issues that have to be reconsidered in light of Jesus’ teachings. Today’s text (*Mark 10:2-16*) raises especially challenging questions for the modern church, when realizing the high incidence of divorce and the great debate over the rights of same gender loving people. However, I am convinced that the answers we are looking for are to be found in the spirit of the words, “WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER.”

(Reprinted from October 4, 2009)

– *Senior Servant*

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

October 17	Circle 4	November 7	Circle 7
October 24	Circle 5	November 14	Circle 1
October 31	Circle 6	November 21	Circle 2

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, October 10, 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 ~ resumption date To Be Determined

NOAH Public Meeting ~ Sunday, Oct 21st 3:00-5:30 p.m., 15th Ave Missionary Baptist Church, at 901 Monroe St; Represent our Church Family by wearing a Whosoever T-shirt if you can!

Pink Sunday ~ Sunday, October 28th

Harvest of Blessings ~ Wednesday, October 31st, 5:30 p.m.

Thank you for supporting Metropolitan through the Kroger Plus program! For the period between 5/29/18 and 8/28/18, Metropolitan earned \$161.85 in Community Rewards.

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... **20th Sunday after Pentecost** **October 8 - 14 2018**

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31

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
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Anna Nickerson	2414 Albion Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-540-0976
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	\$5,770.00	\$5,597.00	(\$173.00)	
September 9, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$2,568.00	(\$3,202.00)	
September 16, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$5,769.27	(\$0.73)	
September 23, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$4,258.00	(\$1,512.00)	
September 30, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$3,914.00</u>	<u>(\$1,856.00)</u>	
September, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$22,106.27	(\$6,743.73)	
2018 Year to Date	\$225,030.00	\$214,803.10		(\$10,226.90)