

STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ~ Sunday, November 4, 2018

TWENTY-FOURTH 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: Teach us, O God, the mysteries of your ways,

People: **And we will interpret them for the world.**

Leader: Whisper to us your most glorious secrets;

People: **Our hearts will proclaim them from the housetops.¹**

Leader: Turn us from our frenzied pursuit of vanities;

People: **Our souls will take up the quest for meaning.**

Leader: Lead us in the paths of your riddles;

People: **Our minds will delight in explaining them.**

Leader: Confirm our resolve to unveil hidden things;

People: **Our strength will persist in removing your masks.**

Leader: Yes, teach us, O God, the mysteries of your ways,

People: **For nothing is hidden but to be made plain; nothing made secret, but to be brought to light.²**

Leader: And yet may all prophecies pass away,

People: **And all mysteries and knowledge be incomplete—**

ALL: **Unless perfect love be moving among us—bearing all things, believing all things, hoping all things, enduring all things.**

¹ See Luke 12:3

² See Mark 4:22

OPENING HYMN

“For All the Saints”

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest: Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might; Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought
fight; and Thou, in darkness drear their one true light: Alleluia, Alleluia.

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle – they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine: Alleluia, Alleluia.

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold: Alleluia, Alleluia.

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong: Alleluia, Alleluia.

From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast, thru gates of pearl streams in the countless
host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia, Alleluia.

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.

PROCLAMATION

THE WORD

John 11:32-44

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.

SATURDAY MESSAGE

Rev. Donna Whitney, Pastoral Assistant

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbor as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Mark 12:28-34

THE MESSAGE

*Rev. Joanne Robertson
First Daughter of Metropolitan*

SO EMOTIONAL

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

John 11:32-44

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.

For such a time, for such a person, the only thing is to wait it out, to affirm with avid recollection and present insistence that the contradictions of life are never final. All contradictions are held together in an almighty synthesis that gives them, ultimately, a meaning and a context.

HOWARD THURMAN

(From A Strange Freedom: The Best of Howard Thurman on Religious Experience and Public Life, p. 47)

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>

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

November 14	Circle 1	December 5	Circle 3
November 21	<i>No Midweek Fellowship</i>	December 12	Circle 4
November 28	Circle 2	December 19	Circle 5

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

2128 11th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208; *Mailing Address:* P.O. Box 280779, Nashville, TN 37228

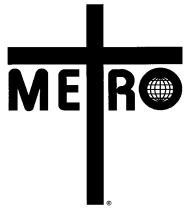
Phone: (615) 72METRO (726-3876) **Fax:** (615) 259-9210 **website:** www.micwhosoever.org

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. 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, November 4, 2018 ~ All Saints Sunday ~ 24th 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.

ALL SAINTS DAY 2015

Looking at my own life: especially using my grandfather Mr. Erskine Grant, known to all of his clan as “Poppa,” as my yardstick I look at the things that transpired in his lifetime as a back drop for this year’s All Saints Day meditation. He was born in 1886 and died in 1987, the same year Simunye graduated from Morehouse College and the year that we moved into the Metropolitan Meeting House. Flying across the Atlantic from South Africa, I thought about Poppa having been 25 years old when the Wright Brothers made their maiden air voyage at Kittyhawk. Incidentally, Poppa refused to ever get on a plane and never believed that man walked on the moon in 1969, the year I graduated from college at a time when the only thing my grandfather could write was his name but let the record show “he could count.”

As I shared these snapshots of the patriarchal giant on the maternal side of my nuclear family, I think about my favorite words from Howard Thurman which remind us that “none of life’s contradictions are final.” Poppa’s everyday existence was framed by contradiction, yet his life has meaning which continues to evolve until this day. The accomplishments of many whose DNA is connected to his are phenomenal and even in the lives of those we don’t celebrate in our bloodlines there are ways in which their contributions are beyond measure if we had an instrument by which we could fully comprehend the truth of all the lives attached to this one man’s journey. There’s the good, the bad and the ugly but one of the goods I always consider when thinking of Erskine Grant was that he could quote the bible extensively and often spoke words of wisdom that will forever echo in my mind such as the moment when I was perplexed and about ready to give up on Metropolitan Interdenominational Church and he said to me, “Anything born grown won’t live long.”

The criteria for sainthood are more basic than one might think. I spoke about these things a few years ago at Jimmie Armstrong’s funeral when I referred to her as “Saint Jimmie.” She was a miracle worker for myriads who came through the Elam Center at Meharry—for most all of us there are parental and ancestral characters who have made transformative contributions in our lives. Unlikely saints who helped us negotiate the storms of life as they paved the way. Those who have gone before and are a part of the cloud of witnesses who look over the balcony of heaven watching to see us through. The Mudeas and Poppas, and aunts and uncles, blood, surrogate and extended family represent the saints who have lorded over our lives in a fashion that serve to teach us that “none of life’s contradictions are final.”

In our text for the day, Mary and Martha learn that while Jesus was late he was still on time. When we look around and see where God has brought us we can “keep on keeping on” thanks to the saints God has used all along the way. Thru Christ, God is still in the resurrection business.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 7; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

Thank You to those who contributed to our **Harvest of Blessings!**

Howard Thurman Retreat ~ Saturday, November 10th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.,
at Penuel Ridge Retreat Center in Ashland City, Registration \$25.00;
Call the church to Register (615) 726-3876; Contact Rev. Sanders if you need a scholarship

Thanksgiving Worship Service: November 22nd, 9:30 – 10:30 am

Ecclesiastical Council meeting: November 25th, following worship service

World AIDS Sunday Celebration: December 2nd, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Annual Church Meeting: December 9th, immediately following morning worship

Christmas Family Fellowship: December 16th, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Watch Night Worship Service: December 31st, 10:00 pm

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series ~ meets on specific dates TBA.

BIBLE READINGS

Read... Pray... Sacrifice... **25th Sunday after Pentecost**

November 5-11, 2018 *Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 Psalm 127 or 42 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44*

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, 2018	\$28,850.00	\$22,106.27	(\$6,743.73)	(\$10,226.90)
October 7, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$5,034.75	(\$735.25)	
October 14, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$7,868.57	\$2,098.57	
October 21, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$2,329.39	(\$3,440.61)	
October 28, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$4,518.00</u>	<u>(\$1,252.00)</u>	
October, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,750.71	(\$3,329.29)	
2018 Year to Date	\$248,110.00	\$234,553.81		(\$13,556.19)