



STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, November 11, 2018

TWENTY-FIFTH 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:** Elijah the prophet begged for water,
People: **And the widow hurried to draw it.**
- Leader:** Elijah the prophet called out for bread,
People: **But she had only some meal to give.**
- Leader:** So Elijah the prophet promised the woman, "Make a cake with your last handful of meal, and use your last drop of oil. Bake first for me, and *then* for you, and our hunger shall be filled."
People: **So she went and did as Elijah said – she made her last morsel of bread for a stranger, *then* she baked for herself and her child. Yet her mite of meal was never spent, and her drop of oil was not consumed.**
- ALL:** **O, the last shall be first, and the first shall be last, here in the kingdom of God!**
- Leader:** Jesus the prophet cried out for truth;
People: **But he heard tedious prayers.**
- Leader:** Jesus the prophet sought signs of great faith,
People: **But he witnessed only a parade of gestures.**
- Leader:** So Jesus the prophet warned the people, "Beware of those who guard sacks of meal and hoard their jars of oil; who make and eat their own cake first, then offer to orphans the crumbs on the floor!"
People: **But then a poor widow approached in quiet and did what no other had done. She gave her last penny for a stranger in need, withholding no coin for herself. Yet her little wealth was never spent, and her life was not consumed!**
- ALL:** **O, the last shall be first, and the first shall be last, here in the kingdom of God!**
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OPENING HYMN

"GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER"

Give of your best to the Master, give of the strength of your youth;
Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor into the battle for truth.
Jesus has set the example Dauntless was He, young and brave;
Give Him your loyal devotion, give Him the best that you have.

REFRAIN: Give of your best to the Master,

Give of the strength of your youth;

Clad in salvation's full armor, join in the battle for truth.

Give of your best to the Master, give Him first place in your heart;
Give Him first place in your service, consecrate ev'ry part.
Give and to you shall be given God His beloved Son gave;
Gratefully seeking to serve Him, give Him the best that you have. **REFRAIN**

Give of your best to the Master, Nought else is worthy His love;
He gave Himself for your ransom, gave up His glory above;
Laid down His life without murmur, You from sin's ruin to save;
Give Him your heart's adoration, give Him the best that you have. **REFRAIN**

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.

The fight for the private life is fierce and unyielding. Often it seems as if our times are in league with the enemy. There is little rhythm of alternation between the individual and others. Land values are so high that breathing space around the places where we live is cut away. We flee from the crowded city to the quiet of the countryside. But the countryside becomes jammed with the sounds, the noises, the sights, the pressures which were left behind. Sometimes we escape into the city from the country...

We have made an idol of togetherness. It is the watchword of our times, it is more and more the substitute for God. In the great huddle we are desolate, lonely, and afraid. Our shoulders touch but our hearts cry out for understanding without which there can be no life and no meaning. The Great Cause, even the Cause of Survival, is not enough! There must be found ever-creative ways that can ventilate the private soul without blowing it away, that can confirm and affirm the integrity of the person in the midst of the collective necessities of our times.

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>Worshiping, 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

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

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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, November 11, 2018 ~ 25th 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.

BIG BROTHER

BIG BROTHER is an inescapable dimension of our everyday reality. When Orwell's futuristic vision of the world was first projected in his classic work, 1984, what seemed to be impossible has become commonplace. The experience of life in a society where we are always under observation is no longer science fiction. In major cities all around the world, it is generally the case that your every move is being captured on film or being reviewed by security personnel of one type or another. Crimes are solved, children are monitored, business transactions documented, patterns of behavior are studied, driving violations are captured and surveillance is carried out in just about every imaginable situation. Clearly, there are pros and cons associated with the BIG BROTHER syndrome. So much of what allows us to feel safe is dependent upon the network of cameras which make note of our every move. We never have full knowledge of who is doing the watching, but this week's text, *Mark 12:38-44*, reminds us that the most gifted and astute observer of all times is Jesus. His critique of the scribe's greedy, egotistical and self-centered behavior warns us of the consequences of being caught up in self. The desire to be at the center of attention can be very seductive, and we must all "beware" of this pitfall. Just as Jesus is sitting opposite the treasury viewing the giving of all those who contributed, he is also constantly paying attention to our stewardship. It begs the question: What does the Lord see when he looks in our direction? Most of the time we are suspect of the human intrusions into our lives, but when BIG BROTHER Jesus is doing the looking, it's alright. We all need to pray that what he sees in our hearts and spirits is more like the widow, versus the rich people in the text. The world would be a better place if we were more mindful of the presence of our beloved BIG BROTHER.

(Reprinted from November 08, 2015)

– *Senior Servant*

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.

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.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 1; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

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, 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...

November 12-18, 2018

26th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20 1 Samuel 2:1-10 or Psalm 113 Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 Mark 13:1-8

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

~ Midweek Fellowship Meal Schedule ~

November 21	<i>No Midweek Fellowship</i>	December 12	Circle 4
November 28	Circle 2	December 19	Circle 5
December 5	Circle 3	December 26	<i>No Midweek Fellowship</i>

~ 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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$19,750.71	(\$3,329.29)	(\$13,556.19)
November 4, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$7,378.50</u>	<u>\$1,608.50</u>	
November, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$7,378.50	\$1,608.50	
2018 Year to Date	\$253,880.00	\$241,932.31		(\$11,947.69)