



STRETCHING OUR FAITH

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, December 30, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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: Like Hannah, the mother of Samuel, the Spirit has woven a robe for the children of God to wear:

Men: The garment is cut on the pattern of love,

Women: Which makes the two one, and unites the many.

Men: Its sleeves are made from the cloth of compassion;

Women: Its collar, from humility.

Men: Its front is fashioned from mercy and patience;

Women: Its back, from wisdom born of grief.

Men: Its sash is forgiveness, the tie that binds;

Women: Its hem is stitched with threads of kindness.

Leader: Come, let us dress in the raiment of God, the saving garment, the righteous robe --

Men: Like a bridegroom decked with a garland,

Women: Like a bride adorned with jewels!

OPENING HYMN

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

Chorus: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’rywhere,
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ was born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. *CHORUS*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth. *CHORUS*

3. Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. *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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

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 is something which seems utterly final about the end of a year. It means that we are one year older; this is a fact definite and inexorable. We are twelve months closer to the end of our physical time span—one year closer to death. It means that in some important ways we are taken farther from, or brought closer to, the goal of our living, whatever that goal may be. It means that some crucial questions which were unanswered twelve months ago have been finally and decidedly answered, and whatever doubts there may have been about the result are completely removed; we now know. It means that we are in fuller or lesser possession of ourselves and our powers than ever before.

...[B]ecause life is dynamic and we are deeply alive, the end of the year can mean only the end of the year, not the end of life, not the end of us, not even the end of time. We turn our faces toward the year being born with a riding hope that will carry us into the days ahead with courage and with confidence. The old year dies; the new year is being born—Long live Life!

(From "Moments of Celebration," in *For The Inward Journey*, pp. 261-2) **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

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, December 30, 2018 ~ FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

*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.*

HALF-BAKED

“HALF-BAKED” is a very effective way of describing a thought process where an individual’s speculations, assumptions or professed knowledge about something results in a conclusion that is less than accurate, in spite of what might be good intentions. The image that always comes to my mind when I hear the term HALF-BAKED is that of someone who is cooking a cake, who has the right recipe and all of the right ingredients, but doesn’t let it stay in the oven long enough to get done. In *Luke 2:41-52* Jesus’ parents could not understand why, when he was twelve years old, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem after they had started home following the Passover celebration. Their trust in him and the community they were a part of was well founded, yet they did not have a full appreciation for the divinity of the child they were rearing. The text tells us Jesus was still growing, and we must also continue to grow, even if it means being misunderstood. All of us who are followers of Jesus are in “the oven of life” and as our journeys unfold we can be sure there will be situations where we will appear to be HALF-BAKED.

(Reprinted from Sunday, December 27, 2009)

Senior Servant

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.

Thank you for supporting Metropolitan through the Kroger Plus program! For the period between 8/29/18 and 11/27/18, Metropolitan earned \$161.10 in Community Rewards.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 6; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

To view the **World AIDS Day Common Voice Pledge** video visit:
https://vimeo.com/303472628?utm_source=email&utm_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm_campaign=28749
or search Common Voice Worship Experience on Facebook, or view it on our Facebook page

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

Ecclesiastical Council Meeting: January 27th following morning worship

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

BIBLE READINGS	<i>Read... Pray... Sacrifice...</i>	December 31, 2018 – January 6, 2019
Epiphany of the Lord	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12</i>	

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 ~

January 9	Circle 7	January 30	Circle 3
January 16	Circle 1	February 6	Circle 4
January 23	Circle 2	February 13	Circle 5

~ 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, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$21,642.50	\$1,437.50	(\$14,993.69)
December 2, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$7,618.76	\$1,848.76	
December 9, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$4,574.00	(\$1,196.00)	
December 16, 2018	\$5,770.00	\$5,341.73	(\$428.27)	
December 23, 2018	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$7,052.90</u>	<u>\$1,282.90</u>	
December, 2018	\$23,080.00	\$24,587.39	\$1,507.39	
2018 Year to Date	\$294,270.00	\$280,423.70		(\$13,846.30)