



STRETCHING OUR VISION
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF FOUNDERS' MONTH

Sunday, February 17, 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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 Christ, compel us to reexamine the standards by which
we judge –

People: The values we condone, the values by which we condemn.

Leader: You pronounce blessings upon the poor and the hungry;

People: If you be for them, shall we dare be against them?

Leader: You pronounce blessings upon the weeping and the
forsaken;

People: If you be for them, shall we dare be against them?

Leader: You pronounce woes upon the greedy and the pretentious;

People: If you be against them, shall we dare be for them?

Leader: You pronounce woes upon the proud and the deceitful;

People: If you be against them, shall we dare be for them?

Leader: O Christ, inspire us to embrace the standards by which *you*
judge –

People: The values by which you favor, the values by which you forgive!

OPENING HYMN

“LOVE LIFTED ME”

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more; but the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry, from the waters lifted me – now safe am I.

*CHORUS: Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me;
Love lifted me, Love lifted me,
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.*

All my heart to Him I give, ever to him I'll cling, in His blessed presence live, ever His praises sing. Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs; faithful, loving service too to Him belongs. *CHORUS*

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves; He will lift you by His love out of the angry waves. He's the Master of the sea, billows His will obey; He your Savior wants to be – be saved today. *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

HISTORIC REFLECTION

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 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!

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.

CELEBRATION IN SONG

The Voices of Metropolitan
Reginald Green, Minister of Music

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.

WE YIELD TO THE LOVE OF GOD

We bare our lives to the scrutiny, to the judgement, to the love of God. There is so much that burdens the mind, that peoples the thoughts, that again and again we are confused even in the great quiet Presence of God.

We yield to Him our confusions...

We yield to Him our frailties and our limitations...

We yield the desires of our minds and hearts...

We yield the desires of which we are ashamed...

We yield our joys...

We yield our concerns for the world where we are exposed to much that casts down and depresses, to little that uplifts and inspires...

We yield our lives, the nerve centers of our consent...

All of this—and more than tongue can say and heart can feel and mind can think—all of this we yield to the scrutiny, to the judgement, to the love of God.

(From "Concerning Disciplines of the Spirit," in *For the Inward Journey*, pp. 94-5) **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



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METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, February 17, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF FOUNDERS' MONTH

*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.*

CHOOSING SIDES

CHOOSING SIDES is one of the dynamics in human life which has been a part of our existence since the beginning of time. Thus, throughout history we have been CHOOSING SIDES in ways that have led to hot debate, arguments, conflict and even war. In the United States, we have wrestled with Slavery, Women's Rights, Desegregation, Interracial Marriage, Homosexuality / Gay Liberation, Non-violence, Affirmative Action, Marriage Equality, Health Care Reform, Immigration, Bathroom Bills and Alternative Facts, and the list of issues goes on in identifying the issues that give rise to CHOOSING SIDES. Those who accept the mandate of God revealed through Micah, "to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God," and Jesus' teachings in the Beatitudes, will more often than not find themselves CHOOSING SIDES against those who have become slaves to the ways of the world. Walking with Jesus requires CHOOSING SIDES.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 6; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

Founders' Day Brunch: Sunday, February 24th, following morning worship

Saturday, March 2, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Sunday, March 3, 2019 8:00 a.m. (*breakfast!*)

Praying Through the Night for the Healing of AIDS

Featured Speaker: Dr. Pernessia C. Seele, The Balm in Gilead, Inc.

BIBLE READINGS

Read... Pray... Sacrifice...

February 18-24, 2019

7th Sunday after the Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 • Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 • 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 • Luke 6:27-38

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
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 ~

February 27	Circle 7	March 20	Circle 3
March 6	Circle 1	March 27	Circle 4
March 13	Circle 2	April 3	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)
2018 Year End	\$300,040.00	\$285,448.70		(\$14,591.30)
January, 2019	\$23,080.00	\$20,603.86	(\$2,476.14)	(\$2,476.14)
February 3, 2019	\$5,770.00	\$5,323.00	(\$447.00)	
February 3, 2019	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$9,340.14</u>	<u>\$3,570.14</u>	
February, 2019	\$11,540.00	\$14,663.14	\$3,123.14	
2019 Year to Date	\$34,620.00	\$35,267.00		\$647.00

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.