STRETCHING OUR VISION

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 3, 2019

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 reigns; let the earth rejoice and be glad!
People: Go, tell everybody everywhere that Jesus Christ is Lord!
Leader: Go, tell the haughty that they shall be brought low,
People: And the lowly that they shall be lifted up.
Leader: Go, tell the well that they shall become ill,
People: And the ill that they shall be made well.
Leader: Go, tell the rich that they shall become poor,
People: And the poor that they shall become rich.
Leader: Go, tell the oppressors that they shall be enslaved,
People: And the oppressed that they shall be set free.
Leader: Go, tell the strong that they shall become weak,
People: And the weak that they shall become strong.
Leader: Go, tell the first that they shall be last,
People: And the last that they shall be first.
Leader: Go, tell everybody everywhere that Jesus Christ is Lord --
People: That he has turned the world upside down,
ALL: And the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of God.
SONG OF LIBERATION

"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"

Lift every voice and sing, ‘till 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, ‘till 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Tiayanna Jonae Hamilton

Parents: Devon Hamilton, Roland Jones

Grandparent: Barbara Jones

God Parents: Rita Jones, Garry L. Jones, Jr.

Cousin: Paris Jones

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

PROCLAMATION

Reginald Green, Minister of Music

THE WORD


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.

THE MESSAGE

HIGH POINTS AND LOW PLACES

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” – not knowing what he said. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and on those days told no one of the things they had seen.

37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. 39 Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. 40 I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” 41 Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” 42 While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

43 And all were astounded at the greatness of God. While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing.

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

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 INWARDNESS OF RELIGION

As a person each of us lives a private life; there is a world within where for us the great issues of our lives are determined. It is here that at long last the “yea” and “nay” of our living is defined, declared. It is private. It is cut off from immediate involvement in what surrounds us. It is my world. This does not suggest, nor is it meant to suggest, that it is merely the creation of my own mind, thought, and imagination. True, I am a child not only of nature, of parents, but also I am a child of my nation, which in turn makes me a child of my civilization and the culture whose roots finally mingle with other cultures and civilizations long since passed into history. But there remains a private, personal world which I claim as uniquely my own.

Religious experience is interpreted to mean the conscious and direct exposure of the individual to God. Such an experience seems to the individual to be inclusive of all the meaning of life – there is nothing that is not involved. There is present here what William James refers to as “acquaintance-knowledge” as contrasted to “knowledge about.” It is immediate experience and yet experience that is purely immediate is not quite possible. The individual is never an isolated, independent unit; the individual brings to their religious experience certain structural and ideological equipment or tools. This equipment is apt to be very determinative in how they interpret the significance not only of their religious experience but also the significance of experience itself.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE VALUES</th>
<th>INCLUSIVE: Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loving, Giving, Serving, Inclusive, Reconciling, Fellowship, Liberating</td>
<td>LOVING: Worshiping, Comforting, Caring</td>
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<td>SERVING: Helping, Ministering, Providing</td>
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<td>RECONCILING: Forgiving, Restoring, Affirming</td>
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<td>LIBERATING: Teaching, Nurturing, Advocating</td>
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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

SHUT UP, AND LISTEN!

SHUT UP, AND LISTEN! - reflects a harshness of tone that we do not generally associate with the voice of God, yet there is a sense in which this contemporary way of speaking might best capture the pointedness of God’s words, as spoken in Luke 9:35, if they were expressed in this exact manner. Peter seems to miss the message this great mountaintop moment provides because he is too quick to respond to what he is experiencing out of the framework of his limited thought process versus the infinite wisdom of God. Like many of us tend to do, Peter was trying to make Jesus fit into a box whose dimensions were no bigger than his capacity to comprehend. The challenge of dealing with the demons of our world cannot be addressed without an openness to hear the voice of God as revealed through the teachings of Jesus. Nothing less than the radically inclusive, unconditional love of God will give us the power to drive out the evil spirits in our society that fragment, divide, stigmatize and dehumanize. Many of us who profess to be disciples of Jesus need to SHUT UP, AND LISTEN!

(reprinted from Sunday, February 10, 2013) -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.
UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, March 6, 2019
Light Dinner at 6:00 p.m. by Circle 1
Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, March 6, 2019

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY: Sunday, March 17, 2019

CHURCH FUN ACTIVITY (TBD): Friday, March 22, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL MEETING: March 31st following worship

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.

BIBLE READINGS

Read... Pray... Sacrifice...  March 4-10, 2019

First Sunday in Lent


~ Sick, Shut In, and Recovering Members ~

| 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 ~

| March 13 | Circle 2 | April 3 | Circle 5 |
| March 20 | Circle 3 | April 10 | Circle 6 |
| March 27 | Circle 4 | April 17 | Circle 7 |

~ Giving Summary ~

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Offering – Actual</th>
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