



STRETCHING OUR VISION
METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 10, 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:** Hear now the word of the Lord, all who enter these doors to worship;
People: We come to worship the Lord our God, whom we have made our refuge!
Leader: If you would dwell in this, my house, you must change your ways!
People: Speak to us, Lord, for we would be faithful!
Leader: If you no longer estrange the stranger, if you no longer forsake the forsaken;
People: If we turn, and be friend to the friendless; if we turn, and be home to the homeless;
Leader: If you no longer be true to untruth, but execute justice among one another;
People: If we turn, amend our ways, no longer chasing other gods –
Leader: Then I will let you inhabit this place –
People: This house where your glory dwells!
Leader: Like living stones, you will *become* my house –
People: And Christ will be the sure foundation, and the world will be the walls!
Leader: Hear my word and amend your ways, for then you will find your habitation!
People: Then goodness and mercy will brighten our days;
Leader: And you shall dwell in the house of God –
People: We shall be the house of God –
ALL: For ever and for ever!
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OPENING HYMN

“Yield Not to Temptation”

Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin; Each vict'ry will help you
Some other to win; Fight manfully onward, Dark passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.

***CHORUS: Ask the Savior to help you, Comfort, strengthen and keep you;
He is waiting to aid you, He will carry you through.***

Shun evil companions, Bad language disdain; God's name hold in rev'rence,
Nor take it in vain; Be thoughtful and earnest, Kindhearted and true;
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through. **CHORUS**

To him that o'er-cometh, God giveth a crown; Thro' faith we will conquer,
Tho' often cast down; He who is our Savior, Our strength will renew;
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through. **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

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.

There is an abiding desire to know the future, to see around the corner. If we knew all would be well, we would be content. But life is not like that. We bring into the present all our experience from birth to now; all the love that nourished us at other times, all the yearnings rooted in our spirits. And then there is the witness of others who have gone along the road we take. The generations meet and share, in ways beyond our grasp, the secrets of a new path, the first step, the beginning way. God leads us on by paths we did not know.

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

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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 VISION

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 10, 2019

*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.*

A STRONG DEFENSE

A STRONG DEFENSE is offered by Jesus in *Luke 4:1-13*, at the beginning of his ministry, when he is tempted by the devil after having spent 40 days in the wilderness. In response to every temptation that he was confronted with, Jesus drew upon his knowledge of God's word to resist the attack. Our places of vulnerability in life are the same as Jesus' were two thousand years ago. The things we hunger for, the desire to have great power and the tendency to always want to have things go our way are constantly creeping into our minds. No matter how hard we try to avoid these thoughts, they continue to resurface. Much of what drives the behaviors that are manifest in racism, sexism, violence, crime and oppression are all rooted in self-centered temptations. To be faithful followers of Jesus, we must face forthrightly and deal honestly with the fact that there is no way we can completely escape the temptations of the world, but our understanding of the spirit of the word of God is critical to having A STRONG DEFENSE.

(reprinted from Sunday, February 21, 2010)

-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.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. by Circle 2

Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY: Sunday, March 17, 2019

Movie Night: Friday, March 22, 2019, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

“The Princess & the Frog”

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 11-17, 2019

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 : Psalm 27 : Philipians 3:17 – 4:1 : Luke 13:31-35

~ 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 20	Circle 3	April 10	Circle 6
March 27	Circle 4	April 17	Circle 7
April 3	Circle 5	April 24	Circle 1

~ 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, 2019	\$23,080.00	\$24,506.00	\$1,426.00	(\$1,050.14)
March 3, 2019	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>(\$770.00)</u>	
March, 2019	\$5,770.00	\$5,000.00	(\$770.00)	
2019 Year to Date	\$51,930.00	\$50,109.86		(\$1,820.14)