



STRETCHING OUR VISION

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 17, 2019

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

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

Girl Scouts

- Leader:** Fear not, O children of Abram and Sarai, for I am your strength and shield;
- People:** The armor that deflects hatred in the crusade for peace;
- Leader:** The coat that combats cold with the cloth of compassion;
- People:** The arm that screens the sun in the desire for relief;
- Leader:** The shoulder that braves the wind in the search for hope;
- People:** The eye that keeps vigil in the war against indifference;
- Leader:** The home that shelters the heart in the wilderness of grief;
- People:** The candle that gladdens the night with the promise of presence;
- Leader:** The song that unites the singers in the struggle for freedom;
- People:** The chalk that draws the line in the moment of decision;
- Leader:** The window that reveals deceit in the glass of truth;
- People:** The hand that pricks pride with the needle of humility;
- Leader:** The balm that heals injury in the name of mercy;
- People:** The faith that dares question the certainty of belief.
- Leader:** Fear not, O children of Abram and Sarai;
- People:** For the Lord our God is our strength and shield!
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OPENING HYMN**“BLESSED ASSURANCE”**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

CHORUS

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

CHORUS

Perfect submission – all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

CHORUS

WELCOME*Girl Scouts*

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*

GIRL SCOUT 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.

THE INNER NEED FOR LOVE

There is a direct continuity between the need to be loved, to be deeply cared for, and the heart, the very pulse beat of the individual's experience of God in the religious encounter. Here the individual is laid bare, stripped of all façade – what I am in and of myself is finally dealt with. The person has a sense of being touched at their deepest center, at their very core, and all other experiences of love are but imitations of this great experience. All other experiences of love at other levels are what may be regarded as “readying” experiences for the great and tremendous experience which is the significant element in the religious experience itself. This is the essence of the meaning of the love of God. In the presence of God, at last, a person is relieved of all necessity for pretending. They can stand clean in the sense of being undisguised and utterly without shame. This does not mean that limitations are overlooked, that sins are no longer sins, but it does mean that anything less than the very core of one's being is not quite relevant. To be touched *there* is to be placed in a position to have one's life thoroughly examined, thoroughly explored, but from the center, the ultimate point of reference within the individual. There is nothing that cannot be dealt with here. There is nothing that cannot be handled or encompassed from this point of leverage. There is nothing that cannot be understood, placed in this perspective of the event and the logic of one's own life. What happens here truly happens. The religious experience carries with it the judgment that this encounter with God is completely exhaustive and all-comprehending.

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



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SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 17, 2019

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

*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.*

POTHOLES

POTHOLES are everywhere. Whether you are on the interstate, main streets, side streets, back streets or even the church parking lot, there are POTHOLES that make our movement from one place to another difficult. In this week's text, *Luke 13:31-35*, Jesus is teaching, "casting out demons and performing cures" while he is making his way to Jerusalem to deal with his ultimate confrontation on Calvary. He had made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem many times before, but this time was unlike any he had ever experienced. This would be his last trip and the challenges he had to face along the way were considerable. Threats from Herod, scheming by the leaders of his own faith community and the overwhelmingly negative history of prophets in the city he was making his way towards were all converging to add heightened drama to his journey. I think a good metaphor for these looming issues is that they were like POTHOLES he had to negotiate his way over and around. The hazards that our personal POTHOLES create for us as we travel through life are many, but when we have a clear sense of mission that is born out of a calling from God we learn to deal with the "bumps in the road" victoriously. As we walk with The Lord through this season of Lent, I pray that we will learn from him how to be tough enough to "speak truth to power" and gentle enough to be seen "as a hen who gathers her brood under her wings" while we deal with life's POTHOLES. Thanks to the spirit established by our founders thirty-eight years ago, our congregation has done a pretty good job of working our way around the POTHOLES.

(modified from Sunday, February 21, 2016)

-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 20, 2019

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. by Circle 3

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

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 18-24, 2019

Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9

~ 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 27	Circle 4	April 17	Circle 7
April 3	Circle 5	April 24	Circle 1
April 10	Circle 6	May 1	Circle 2

~ 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	\$5,770.00	\$5,000.00	(\$770.00)	
March 10, 2019	<u>\$5,770.00</u>	<u>\$6,415.71</u>	<u>\$645.71</u>	
March, 2019	\$11,540.00	\$11,415.71	(\$770.00)	
2019 Year to Date	\$57,700.00	\$56,525.57		(\$1,174.43)