

**NEW LIFE METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

10:45 a.m.

December 13, 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**Rev. Mark Byrd**

**I Believe in God**  
*Ode to Joy*

**SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY**

**Isaiah 57:14-19**

It will be said: "Survey, survey; build a road! Remove barriers from my people's road!" The one who is high and lifted up, who lives forever, whose name is holy, says: I live on high, in holiness, and also with the crushed and the lowly, reviving the spirit of the lowly, reviving the heart of those who have been crushed. I won't always accuse, nor will I be enraged forever. It is my own doing that their spirit is exhausted—I gave them breath! I was enraged about their illegal profits; I struck them; in rage I withdrew from them. Yet they went on wandering wherever they wanted. I have seen their ways, but I will heal them. I will guide them, and reward them with comfort. And for those who mourn, I will create reason for praise: utter prosperity to those far and near, and I will heal them, says the LORD.

**Luke 1:46-50**

Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior who has looked with favor on the low status of God's servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is God's name who shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors God...yet, God has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry with good things...

**Leviticus 23:10**

The LORD said to Moses: Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you and harvest its produce, you must bring the first bundle of your harvest...

**Proverbs 3:9**

Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce...

**Ezekiel 44:30**

The first of all first fruits of every kinds and every contribution of every kind, from all your contributions...

**Romans 11:16**

If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy.

**Luke 15:3ff**

Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

"Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won't light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life."

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons..."

**Psalms 30:1-5**

I exalt you, LORD, because you pulled me up; you didn't let my enemies celebrate over me. LORD, my God, I cried out to you for help, and you healed me. LORD, you brought me up from the grave, brought me back to life from among those going down to the pit. You who are faithful to the LORD, sing praises to him; give thanks to his holy name! His anger lasts for only a second, but his favor lasts a lifetime. **Weeping may stay all night, but by morning, joy!**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**One:** *The Lord is with you!*

**All:** *And also with you!*

**One:** *Lift up your hearts!*

**All:** *We lift them up to the Lord!*

**One:** *Let us give thanks to the Lord!*

**All:** *It is right to give God thanks and praise!*

**All:** *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One Who comes in the Name of  
The Lord!*

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*Proclamation of our faith:*

**All:** *Christ has died.*

**Christ is risen Christ shall come again.**

**Hallelujah!**

*OUR MISSION:*

***We are an inclusive, diverse, Christ-centered church, in which you have the freedom to be who you are, participate in community, explore spiritual transformation, and be part of social action.***

*OUR VISION:*

*We Are...* **ORDINARY PEOPLE**

*Somos...* **PERSONAS REGULAR**

*Believing...* **GOD'S LOVE IS FOR ALL**

*Creemos...* **EL AMOR DE DIOS ES PARA TODOS**

*Called To...* **REVEAL GOD'S PRESENCE IN  
EVERYONE**

*Llamados...* **A REVELAR PRESENCIA DE DIOS EN  
TODO Y TODA**

**ACTING ON FAITH**

**NLMCC Capital Campaign 2020-2023**

***WE PRAYER TOGETHER...***

Creator God, in your love for us you have blessed us abundantly. We glorify you and give you thanks for all the gifts you have given us: Our faith, our lives, our loved ones, and especially for the wisdom and love of our founding members whose example of sacrifice in time, talent and treasure, continues to bless us.

Most of all, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ whose sacrifice on the cross is made present to us through Christ's presence in each of us.

We also thank you for the opportunity to purchase our church home and for making that purchase possible by supplying our every need, according to Your riches. You have blessed us with both the gifts and finance necessary to reach our goal.

Continue to pour out your Spirit upon us, give us hearts of humility and gratitude. Help us to live as disciples modeling our lives after Christ's own pattern of self-giving love.

We humbly ask you to send your Spirit upon our community during this crucial time as we embark upon this campaign to build upon the foundation laid by those who came before us in faith.

We offer our prayers, joys, works, and treasures to you and we unite them to the love and grace of Christ. Let the beauty of you our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands for us. May our work manifest our gratitude and glorify you Oh God, forever and ever.

Amen.

*In addition, the Prayer Team offers these three daily prayers for our New Life Capital Campaign. Please feel free to use these and your own prayers as you feel led, as the Spirit guides and empowers us toward reaching our goal of raising the necessary funds together to purchase the church building at 1000 Sunset Drive, Norfolk, VA.*

**Morning Prayer:**

God of Abraham and Sarah, hear our voice as the faint light of morning grows on the horizon. We recall the journey of our faith ancestors who changed their lives in response to Your call. As this day unfolds before me, keep my ears open to Your call for this church as we move forward with this capital campaign in response to Your holy "nudge." We lay our request before you and wait expectantly.

Amen.

**Afternoon Prayer:**

This afternoon, O God, I stop in the middle of a busy day to reflect on the manifestations of Your Spirit in the life of this church and in my own life. Remind me each and every moment that every gift I have comes from You. Please give me a willing heart to use them well and use them for You. Thank you for blessing my efforts.

Amen.

**Evening Prayer:**

As we end our day together, O God, I thank You for today and the opportunities I have had to bring my congregation and its capital needs into the Light of Your presence. Although the light of day has now faded from sight, let me rest assured that Your Light shines forever. May the bricks and frame of our church building serve as a beacon of that Light to all who still search for it. Thank you for blessing our efforts on behalf of them.

Amen.

## **NLMCC Song Sheet**

Sunday, December 13, 2020

CCLI Music/Streaming License:

482751/20125643

### **OPENING CELEBRATION**

#### ***I've Got That Joy Joy Joy Joy***

V1: I've got that joy joy joy joy, Down in my heart, Down in my heart, Down in my heart. I've got that joy joy joy joy, Down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay

C: And I'm so happy, So very happy. I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

And I'm so happy so very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart

V2: I've got the hope that passes understanding, Down in my heart, Down in my heart, Down in my heart.

I've got the hope that passes understanding, Down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay (C)

### **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

#### ***It's Advent Time***

It's advent time for us at MCC.

Even though we're not together, we can all share in God's

Hope... Love... and Joy. (repeat)

### **LIGHTING of THE ADVENT WREATH**

#### ***The Candles of***

#### ***HOPE, LOVE, & JOY***

*Choral Response:*

#### ***Ode To Joy***

V1: Joyful joyful we adore Thee, God of glory Lord of love. Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

V2: Thou art giving and forgiving Ever blessing ever blest. Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest. Thou our Savior Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine. Teach us how to love each other; Lift us to the joy divine

V3: Let us join the mighty chorus Which the morning stars recall. Creator love is reigning o'er us; Family love binds all to all. Ever singing march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife. Joyful music lifts us sunward, In the triumph song of life.

## **WELCOME**

*Congregational Declaration:*

***I Believe In God***; I believe in God, Even when, even when, God is silent. (Choral Response)

### **OUR PRAYERS TOGETHER**

*Choral Response*

#### ***Believe***

Believe, with a joyful heart! Believe, and shine your light! Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all! (Repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong;" Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us." (Repeat) Believe!

### **OLD TESTAMENT & GOSPEL READINGS**

***Isaiah 57:14-19***

***Luke 1:46-50***

*Choral Response:*

#### ***While We Are Waiting Come***

V1: While we are waiting come; While we are waiting com. Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, While we are waiting come.

V2: With pow'r and glory come...

V3: Come Savior quickly come...

### **OFFERTORY**

#### ***Blessed Quietness***

V1: Joys are flowing like a river, Since the Comforter has come; He abides with us forever, Makes the trusting heart His home. R: Blessed quietness, Holy quietness, What assurance in my soul; On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me, And the billows cease to roll. V2: See, a fruitful field is growing, Blessed fruit of righteousness; And the streams of life are flowing In the lonely wilderness. [R]

*Congregational Response:*

#### ***Doxology***

### **ACTING ON FAITH**

*New Life MCC*

*Capital Campaign 2020-2023*

*Dedicating Our "First Fruits"*

*Congregational & Choral Response*

***We Will Work Together***

C: We will work together, serve together; Building on the blessings of the Lord; We will sow together, reap together; Trusting all that Jesus has in store.

We can trust Him faithfully; Because God is on our side; By my faith I am set free; I'll conquer mountains, hills, or tides; Cuz we will...(C)

### **MORNING MESSAGE**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

*Communion Meditation:*

#### ***I Believe***

V1: I believe in the sun; I believe in the sun, Even when even when it's not shining. I believe in the sun; I believe in the sun, Even when even when it's not shining.

V2: I believe in love; I believe in love, Even when even when I don't feel it. I believe in love; I believe in love, Even when even when I don't feel it. I believe in love; I believe in love, Even when even when I don't feel it. I believe in love; I believe in love, Even when even when I don't feel it.

V3: I believe in God; I believe in God, Even when even when God is silent. Oo oo oo

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER - unison**

### **CLOSING SONG**

#### ***Center Of My Joy***

Jesus You're the center of my joy; All that's good and perfect comes from You. You're the heart of my contentment, Hope for all I do. Jesus You're the center of my joy.

### **BENEDICTION**

*Choral Response:*

#### ***Glory, Glory, Hallelujah***

V1: Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down. Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down.

V2: I feel like shouting, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down. feel like shouting, hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down.