

**NEW LIFE METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

10:45 a.m.

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**Rev. Mark Byrd**

**I Believe in the Light**  
*Illuminating Peace*

**SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light. The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Psalms 85:10** Faithful love and truth have met; righteousness and peace have kissed.

**Numbers 25:12** Therefore announce, 'I am giving him my covenant of peace...

**Jeremiah 33:6** ...but now I will heal and mend them. I will make them whole and bless them with an abundance of peace and security.

**John 8:31-32** To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**Ephesians 2:14** Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us.

**Isaiah 55:12** For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**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 20, 2020

CCLI Music/Streaming License:

482751/20125643

### **OPENING CELEBRATION**

#### **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]

### **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

#### **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus,**

Born to set Thy people free, From our  
fears and sins release us, Let us find  
our rest in Thee, Israel's strength and

consolation, Hope of all the earth

Thou art, Dear desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart

V2: Born Thy people to deliver, Born

a child and yet a King, Born to reign

in us forever, Now Thy gracious

Family bring, By Thine own eternal

Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone, By

Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to

Thy glorious throne

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

#### **The Candles**

**of**

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

*Choral Response:*

#### **Peace Like a River**

V1: I've got peace like a river, I've got

peace like a river, I've got peace like

a river in my soul. I've got peace like

a river, I've got peace like a river, I've

got peace like a river in my soul.

V2: I've got hope like spring, ...

V3: I've got love like an ocean, ...

V3: I've got joy like a fountain, ...

### **WELCOME**

*Congregational Declaration:*

**I Believe In the Light,** I believe in the

light That has come, that has come,

and is coming

(Choral Response)

### **OUR PRAYERS TOGETHER**

*Choral Respons: 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!

### **WORDS OF SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 57:14-19**

**Luke 1:46-50**

*Choral Response:*

#### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

V1: O come all ye faithful, Joyful and  
triumphant, O come ye O come ye to

Bethlehem, Come and behold Him,

Born the King of angels

C: O come let us adore Him, O come

let us adore Him, O come let us

adore Him, Christ the Lord

V2: Sing choirs of angels, Sing in

exultation, O sing all ye citizens of

heav'n above, Glory to God all, Glory

in the highest

### **OFFERTORY**

#### **Glory (Let There Be Peace)**

V1: One star, Burns in the darkness,

Shines with the promise Emmanuel,

One child, Born in the stillness, Living

within us Emmanuel

C: We're singing Glory Glory, Let

there be peace let there be peace,

Singing Glory Glory,, Let there be

peace let it start in me

V2: One voice, Speaks for the

voiceless, Hope for the hopeless

Emmanuel, One love, Brings us

together, Now and forever Emmanuel

B: Do not be afraid, His love is strong

enough to save us, Nothing stands in

the way, His love is strong enough to

lead us (REPEAT)

E: Let there be peace let it start in me

*Congregational Response: Doxology*

### **ACTING ON FAITH**

*Capital Campaign*

**"THE BIG REVEAL"**

*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**

#### **Let There Be Peace On Earth**

V1: Let there be peace on earth, And

let it begin with me. Let there be

peace on earth, The peace that was

meant to be. With God as our

Creator, Family all are we, Let me

walk with my neighbor, In perfect

harmony.

V2: Let peace begin with me, Let this

be the moment now, With ev'ry step I

take, Let this be my solemn vow, To

take each moment, And live each

moment, In peace eternally, Let there

be peace on earth, And let it begin

with me

### **BENEDICTION**

*Choral Response:*

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

V1: It's advent time for us at MCC.

Even though we're not together,

we can all share in God's Hope...

V2: God's Love

V3: God's Joy

V4: God's Peace