

**NEW LIFE METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

10:45 a.m.

December 27, 2020

1st Sunday of Christmas

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**Rev. Jim Whalen**

*Sermon Title*

**The Other Side of Christmas**

**GATHERING CALL**

**Luke 2:13-14 Matthew 1:22-23 Haggai 2:7-9**

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!”** “¡Gloria a Dios en lo más alto del cielo, y en la tierra, gracia y paz a los todos!”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *“Todo esto ha pasado para que se cumpliera lo que había dicho el Señor por boca del profeta Isaías: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord Almighty. *Mía es la plata y mío es el oro —oráculo del Señor del universo—. ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the Lord Almighty.”*

**Isaiah 61:10, 62:3**

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord’s hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”, and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he

would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles.

The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

**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!*

## **PRAYING TOGETHER**

*Prayer(s) as we begin the Capital Campaign*

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 27, 2020

CCLI Music/Streaming License:

482751/20125643

### **OPENING CELEBRATION**

#### ***It's Christmas Time***

V1: It's Christmas time for us at MCC. Even though we're not together, we can all share in God's Love. (Repeat)

C: Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas to you. Merry Christmas to all, Merry Christmas to all. (Repeat)

### **GATHERING CALL**

Choral Response:

#### ***Angels, from the Realms of Glory***

V1: Angels from the realms of glory Wing your flight o'er all the earth Ye who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth

C: Come and worship come and worship Worship Christ the newborn King

V2: Shepherds in the field abiding Watching o'er your flocks by night God with us is now residing Yonder shines the infant light (C)

V3: Though an infant now we view Him He shall fill our Creator's throne Gather all nations to Him Every knee shall then bow down

### **WELCOME**

#### ***Good King Wenceslas***

V1: Good King Wenceslas looked out On the feast of Stephen When the snow lay round about Deep and crisp and even Brightly shone the moon that night Though the frost was cruel When a poor man came in sight Gath'ring winter fuel

V2: Hither page and stand by me If thou know'st it telling Yonder peasant who is he Where and what his dwelling Sire he lives a good league hence Underneath the mountain Right against the forest fence By Saint Agnes' fountain

V3: In his good king's steps he trod Where the snow laid dinted Heat was

in the very sod Which the Saint had printed Therefore Christian folk be sure Wealth or rank possessing Ye who now will bless the poor Shall yourselves find blessing

### **PRAYERS TOGETHER**

Choral Response:

#### ***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

E: No left, no right, No fight the worth But peace eternally Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me

### **LIFTING OUR VOICES IN SCRIPTURE & SONG**

Isaiah 61:10, 62:3 Luke 2:22-40

Choral Response:

#### ***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name***

V1: All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name Let angels prostrate fall Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all

V2: Ye chosen seed of Israel's race Ye ransomed from the fall Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all  
V3: Let ev'ry kindred ev'ry tribe On this terrestrial ball To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all

### **OFFERTORY**

#### ***Jesus the Light of the World***

V1: Hark the herald angels sing Jesus the light of the world Glory to the new born King Jesus the light of the world

V2: Joyful, all ye nations rise Jesus the light of the world Join the triumph of the skies Jesus the light of the world

C: We'll walk in the light beautiful light Come where the dew drops of mercy shine bright Shine all around us by day and by night Jesus the light of the world

V3: Christ by highest heav'n adored Jesus the light of the world Christ the everlasting Lord Jesus the light of the world

V4: Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace Jesus the light of the world Hail the Sun of righteousness Jesus the light of the world (C)

Congregational Response:

#### ***Doxology***

### **MORNING MESSAGE**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Communion Meditation:

#### **O Holy Night**

V1: O holy night the stars are brightly shining It is the night of the dear Savior's birth Long lay the world in sin and error pining Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

C1: Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices O night divine, O night when Christ was born O night O holy night, O night divine

V2: Truly He taught us to love one another His law is love and His gospel is peace Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother And in His name all oppression shall cease Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we Let all within us praise His holy name

C2: Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever His power and glory, Evermore proclaim His power and glory, Evermore proclaim

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

**CLOSING SONG**

***Wonderful Counselor***

Tell me, Who do you call Wonderful Counselor Oh glory hallelujah, Oh glory hallelujah Glory hallelujah to the Newborn King

Well I call Jesus the Wonderful Counselor Oh glory hallelujah, Oh glory hallelujah Glory hallelujah to the newborn King

Some call Him Master, but I call Him Savior Oh glory hallelujah, Oh glory hallelujah Glory hallelujah to the newborn King

Tell me, Who do you call Wonderful Counselor Oh glory hallelujah, Oh glory hallelujah Glory hallelujah to the Newborn King

**BENEDICTION**

***Go Tell It on the Mountain***

C: Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and ev'rywhere Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

V1: While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light (C)

V2: The shepherds feared and trembled When lo above the earth Rang out the angel chorus That hailed the Savior's birth (C)

V3: Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn (C)

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***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 TODO**

**OUR MISSION:**

***We are an inclusive, diverse, Christ-centered church, in which you have the freedom to***