



**METROPOLITAN
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH**



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SUNDAY

SUNDAY, January 10, 2016

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:** As Jesus asked an ancient disciple baptized in his name,
so he asks us, "Do you love me?"
- People:** **And we answer, "Lord, Lord, you know that we love
you; we were baptized in your name."**
- Leader:** Then Jesus says to us, "Seek the welfare of my people."
And a second time he asks, "Do you love me?"
- People:** **Then again we answer, "Lord, Lord, you know that we
love you; we were baptized in your name."**
- Leader:** Then Jesus says to us, "Minister to the needs of my
people." And still a third time he asks, "Do you love
me?"
- People:** **Once again we answer, "Lord, Lord, you know that we
love you; we were baptized in your name."**
- Leader:** And Jesus says to us, "Then serve my people. Not all who
say, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but
only they who do the will of God."
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OPENING HYMN

“BLESSED ASSURANCE”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O 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 – *Visitors standing*

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

D. Billye Sanders

Your tithes and gifts help us:

- Pay the mortgage, utilities, maintenance, and security for the Metropolitan Meeting House;
- Provide free pastoral counseling (spiritual, marital, grief) services to members of our congregation;
- Fund the programs of the First Response Center, where we serve over 700 people living with HIV/AIDS, and other at-risk persons;
- Pay for the personnel and operating costs of our ministries;
- Provide educational materials and resources to assist in the spiritual growth & development of our community;
- Maintain meeting space for ministries, including Girl Scouts, various recovery/support groups, and community events;
- Fund our annual Anniversary and Homecoming celebrations;
- Provide emergency assistance to members of the congregation and community through our benevolence fund.

*Every gift of your time, talent and treasure makes a vital difference
in the life and ministries of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church. Thank you.*

SONGS OF PRAISE

The Voices of Metropolitan
Reginald Green, Minister of Music

OFFERTORY

“For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.” 1 Chronicles 29:14

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.*

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Harry Emerson Fosdick

Reverend John S. Cross, Senior Pastoral Assistant

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

[illegible]

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

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 are experiences through which we must go, crying all the way, perhaps, if we are ever to go through them without crying, and to go through them without crying must be done.

You must go through some things, crying all the way, perhaps, if you are ever to live with them without crying. This is an important law of living. There are many experiences which we face that are completely overwhelming. As we see them, they are too terrible even to contemplate. And yet we must face them and deal with them directly. We chide ourselves because at first we tend to go to pieces. Go to pieces, then. Weep all the way through the first terrible impact, if need be. This may be the only way that you will ever be able to deal with the problem without emotional upheaval. To deal with it without emotional upheaval is necessary if you are ever going to be able to manage it at all. There can be no more significant personal resolution at the beginning of the New year than this: I will face the problem I have been putting off because of too much fear, of too many tears, of too much resentment, even if it means crying all the way through, in order that I may deal with it without fear, tears, or resentment.

HOWARD THURMAN

METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

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Rev. Edwin C. Sanders, II, The Senior Servant

Pastoral Staff: Rev. John Cross, Rev. Marcella Lockhart, Rev. Clifford Smith,

Rev. Christopher Davis, Rev. Terry Terrell, Rev. Mary Jo Smiley,

Rev. Regina McCrary, Rev. Neely Williams, Rev. Stephanie Thompson,

Rev. Cherie A. Booker, Rev. Christopher Goodwin

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner by Circle 5; Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00, Classes for Adults and Children

Financial Freedom/Entrepreneurship Seminar Series meets Saturdays 9:00–11:00 a.m.
 at the First Response Center, 1219 9th Avenue North, Nashville 37208; Call: 615-321-9791

Saturday, January 30th, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. - Ecclesiastical Council Meeting

FEBRUARY IS FOUNDERS' MONTH!

Sunday, February 7TH – METRO's 35th Anniversary!

Sunday, February 28TH – Founders' Day Brunch

Friday evening Dancercise, 7 pm // Voices of Metropolitan Rehearsal, Saturday, 12 – 2 pm

Saturday Evening Worship, 6 – 7 pm

Kroger Community Rewards: Thank you! Those of you who registered a Kroger Plus Card on or after August 2015, designated support for the metropolitan Interdenominational Church First Response Center and used that Kroger Plus Card between September 1 and November 30, 2015 raised \$277.80 for the First Response Center. Thank you!

BIBLE READINGS *Read... Pray... Sacrifice...* January 11-17, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2:1-11

Photo Directories have arrived! One free for each family photo, then \$10.00 each.

United Way Employee Giving Campaign: Designate #3255 to support the First Response Center. For the Combined Federal Campaign, *Write In* Metropolitan Interdenominational Church First Response Center.

Support Metropolitan while you shop.

(1) Register your **Kroger Plus card** online and select Metropolitan as the organization you wish to support. Go to Koger.com/communityrewards or call 1-800-576-4377 option 3. Renew registration annually, in August.

(2) Register at **Smile.Amazon.com**, select Metropolitan FRC as the charity you support, then ***always*** shop through Smile.Amazon; 0.5% of the proceeds will support the work of the FRC.

~ Giving Summary ~

Date	Offering - Budgeted	Offering - Actual	Offering – (Un)Realized	Summary (Un)Realized
2015 Year to Date	\$ 300,040.00	\$ 283,492.20		(\$16,547.80)
January 3, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 7,475.00	\$ 1,705.00	
January, 2016	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 7,475.00	\$ 1,705.00	
2016 Year to Date	\$ 5,770.00	\$ 7,475.00	\$ 1,705.00	\$ 1,705.00

SICK, SHUT IN, and RECOVERING MEMBERS

Leon McKinley Corder	1902 Elliott Avenue; Nashville, TN 37204-2004	Send prayers, <i>not</i> visitors, please.
Ella Louise Gant	908 Cannon Street; Nashville, TN 37210	615-242-0226
Lynda Hodgers	P.O. Box 54; Guys, TN 38339	662-579-5317
Evelyn Martin	3253 Spears Road; Nashville, TN 37207	615-227-0095
Pat Patterson	208 Lunn Court; Nashville, TN 37218	615-876-4433
Connie Ryans	1703 Pecan Street; Nashville, TN 37208	615-310-7855
Rev. Mary Jo Smiley	Rm #200, Creekside Rehab. Center, 306 West Due West Ave, Madison TN 37115	
Ernestine Williams	2712 Vista Lane; Nashville, TN 37207	615-876-7057
Mary Grace Williams	293 Becklea Drive; Madison, TN 37115	615-868-6810
Emmilye Wilson-Walton	P.O. Box 78795; Nashville, TN 37207	615-262-9375



METROPOLITAN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Sunday, January 10, 2016

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 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.

THE Q

“THE Q,” an abbreviation for the French term, “The Queue,” used globally with reference to waiting in line, is an experience that most of us would rather avoid if possible. Whether it is the grocery line, the motor vehicle registration line, the bank line, the passport line, the boarding line or any other line, we don’t particularly care for the business of waiting. Not to mention how, in any of these situations, our hatred for the process is increased when persons of privilege are allowed to move ahead of us because of their status or position in life. The thought of this reality came rushing through my mind while reading the account of Jesus baptism in this week’s gospel lesson (*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*). The suggestion that Jesus waited until “all the people were baptized” speaks volumes about the nature of our Lord’s relationship to us. Until this very moment, Jesus is waiting for us to make the decision to surrender ourselves to his laws of love and allow his will to be worked through us in the world. We are all in the line of life that leads to death, but Jesus is waiting for us to become aware of who he is so that when we get to the end we will have received the gift of eternal life. In our everyday existence, as we set our proprieties and make or decisions, we need to be mindful of Jesus waiting in “THE Q.”

(Reprinted from Sunday, January 10, 2010)

Senior Servant

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE

January 20	Circle 6	February 10	Circle 2
January 27	Circle 7	February 17	Circle 3
February 3	Circle 1	February 24	Circle 4