

Northern Lights MCC  
Transgender Day of Remembrance 2020  
Order of Service

**WELCOME**

**I AM** *By Emma Chattin*

I defied the gender binary.  
I challenged the first pronouncement ever made about me.  
I questioned the evidence my body presented to me,  
and I took issue with the guidance of my parents,  
who assumed,  
and nudged my life down one path  
without even asking me  
if that's where I wanted to go.  
I confounded my society and my culture,  
and I ignored what I was told was the norm.  
I lived on the edges  
and I defied definitions.  
I am far more than the names I have been called.  
I have done many things and lived many lives.  
I am the rule-breaker, the exception, the trickster,  
the one who divides and multiplies the gender binary  
until it becomes a string of infinite possibilities.  
In ancient times I was celebrated  
as one who walked in many worlds.  
I was revered as the one who embodied transformation  
and who showed the world  
that we can change  
But ancient wisdom has long been forgotten  
and now I pay the price for our forgetfulness.  
We tend to behave badly  
Toward that which we do not understand,  
and therein lies the pain.  
Like all of creation,  
I am a mystery.  
I don't seek to be understood.  
I just seek to be accepted.

*Written for the 2009 Transgender Day of Remembrance,  
Appeared in MCC's "Holy Conversations",  
and in Trans Bodies, Trans Selves : A Resource for the Transgender  
Community*

## LIGHTING OF CANDLES

### VIDEO OF NAMES pt 1

#### READING – Psalm 139

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, God,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, God, know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"
- <sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.
- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my parent's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.

- <sup>19</sup> If only you, God, would slay the wicked!  
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
- <sup>20</sup> They speak of you with evil intent;  
your adversaries misuse your name.
- <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, God,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
- <sup>22</sup> I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.
- <sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

This is the word of our heavenly parent. **Thanks be to God**

**SONG – Show Me Dear Lord**

**VIDEO OF NAMES pt2**

**SONG – Everyone Needs Compassion**

**VIDEO OF NAMES pt3**

**RESPONSIVE READING (Community response is in bold print)**

*adapted from We Remember Them from the Jewish Book of Prayer (response by McCallum/Miller),*

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

**We remember their radiant light that brightened the night with their life.**

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

**We remember the warmth of their spirit and the joy they shared**

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

**We remember who they blossomed to become, claiming their true selves.**

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

**We remember them in tank tops and tube tops, practical sandals and colorfully decorated flip-flops.**

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

**We remember the way transition brought out their most vibrant colors, a glorious and splendid array.**

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

**We remember their hopes and dreams at each New Year and we mourn their gifts, now lost forever.**

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

**We remember their fierce courage to live as their authentic selves.**

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

**We remember they once felt lost, too, yet said “yes” to life.**

When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

**We remember their joy, their pride, their excitement, and the love they gave to the world around them.**

So long as we live, they too shall live...

**...for they live on in our hearts and in our commitment to create a society and world that truly values acceptance, inclusion, justice and love.**

## **PRAYERS**

### ***Including The Lord’s Prayer For Transgender Awareness***

**Our mother and Father, our beloved parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being,**

**The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children.**

**May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.**

**Grant that our transgender loved ones might have their daily needs met—that they might find gainful employment without discrimination; that they might have access to medical care without fear; that they might have their rights and lives protected, and that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own.**

**Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your transgender children. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged their unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear**

**As we forgive those who might have failed us.**

**Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice.**

**But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children.**

**For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*This prayer was originally written for Central Congregational UCC (Atlanta, GA)  
Pride Sunday worship Services on October 9, 2016*

**SONG - This Is Me**