

Service for the Lord's Day

In Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. January 17, 2016

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (each person prays silently)

O Lord, we know that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, struggle; and the concern of dedicated individuals. Today we will proclaim the saving justice of Almighty God.

Gathering

PRELUDE “Praeludium from Pange Lingua” Zolton Kodaly

WELCOME Jan Pennal

*INTROIT #340 “This Is My Song” (v. 1&2) Sibelius, 1899

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name... 'Samuel';
Fishermen once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow;
And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

Moses protested vehemently as the Voice spoke at the burning bush;
Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth;
And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus;
Martin Luther King, Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered;
And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

The Voice beckons from humble places, in the tears of hungry children, in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly, in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred;
And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice; A struggling church hears the Voice and turns;
And still the Voice beckons today... can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

*HYMN #700 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” Whalum, 1984

Dr. King once said, “Nothing is more tragic than to sleep through a revolution.” Truly, the work of justice begins with a proper recognition that injustice is real. Let us confess the stronghold of sin that would consume us. And let us be awakened by the movement of the Spirit that gives us life. Let us pray first silently, then together using the words in the bulletin.

SILENT PRAYER (A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mother and Father, Parent God, you know each of us. You know our inmost wounds, our deepest hurts. You know where we have been wronged and you know where we have wronged others. Forgive us when we have held on to hurts rather than seeking healing. Forgive us when we have harmed sisters and brothers in Christ. Forgive us when we have used you and your sacred Scriptures to cause pain or harm rather than to heal. Call us and teach us how we might bring your message of hope and healing to the world. And may the witness of our brother Martin encourage us to be dreamers for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY Kyrie Eleison

*“Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If, by reflection, analysis, and prayer, we are freed to acknowledge the wrongs around us, the pain among us, the sin within us, and the work before us, God’s mission of peace with justice is being revealed in our midst. Always remember and never forget: Your burden has been lifted!

Because we have been forgiven in the name of Christ, the liberating love of God is at work within us! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.* #580

Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE Psalm 82: 1-4, 8 Bibles, p.512/LG. p.666
The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

HYMN #52 “When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land” Costen, 1989

SECOND SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:4-12 Bibles, p.48/ LG. p.62
The Word of God, for the People of God *Thanks be to God*

SERMON “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” Rev. Candice L. Klein
by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
“The reconciliation of humanity through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God’s good creation. Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world’s poor is the cause of his disciples. The church calls all people to use their abilities, their possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare. It encourages those forces in human society that raise hopes for better conditions and provide people with opportunity for a decent living. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God.” This, we believe. Amen.
– The Confession of 1967 9.46

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “This is the Day that is so Joyous for all Creatures” J.S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sending

*HYMN #339 “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (v. 1&2) Johnson, 1900

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #339 “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (v. 3)

POSTLUDE “Flourish on SALZBURG arr. Wagner

(*) Those who are able may stand.
Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

This week’s prayers and concerns: Tolly Dill and family, Jack Clark and family, Jack Gray, Debbie Murphy, Syble DeLoach, and Cindy Ratliff

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Mon. 01/18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Thur. 01/21	L.E.A.N. Meeting	2:00pm
Thur. 01/21	Session Meeting	6:30pm
Mon. 01/25	Pipeline Deadline	
Choir Practice Every Wed. at 6:00pm		



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We’re on FaceBook!

