

WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 19, 2019

MLK SUNDAY

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

WELCOME

You Are Welcome!

*No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome here:
If you are young or old, you are welcome.
If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin,
or any other color of skin, you are welcome.
If you are married or single, divorced or widowed, you are welcome.
If you are gay or straight, you are welcome,
If you are transgender, you are welcome.
If you identify as a man, woman, or gender fluid, you are welcome.
If you are an immigrant, refugee, or citizen, you are welcome.
If you cannot hear or see, you are welcome.
If you are sick or well, you are welcome.
If you are rich or poor, powerful or weak, you are welcome.
If you believe in God some of the time,
none of the time, or all of the time, you are welcome*

...

You are welcome here!

*Come with your gifts, your pains and hopes, your fears.
Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.
Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.
Come with a mind ready to engage, and a heart open to discern.
Come and listen for the Sacred Spirit that calls you to
love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice,
create peace and practice compassion*

...

You are welcome here!

* SONG OF WORSHIP

RAIN DOWN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Friends, rejoice. We live sustained by God's presence and love.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Mientras lloramos las heridas de los hijos de Dios, (As we mourn the wounds of God's children,)

All: God weeps with us.

One: *Comme nous rendons grâce pour ceux qui ont vécu dans la foi,*
(As we give thanks for those who have lived in faith,)

All: God gives thanks with us.

One: *जैसा कि हम न्याय के लिए संघर्ष,* (As we struggle for justice,)

All: God struggles with us.

One: *평화를 위해 노력할 때,* (As we strive for peace,)

All: God strives with us.

One: *当我们努力建设心爱的社区,* (As we work to build the beloved community,)

All: God works with us.

One: *As we offer our gifts to all,*

All: God blesses us.

One: *Dear family in faith, rejoice*

All: Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.

* SONG OF CELEBRATION

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD

INVITATION TO PRAYER

As the modern day prophet Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke the truth of the sin of the systematic racism in governmental policies and societal norms. He awakened our conscience to the devastating and dehumanizing affects of artificial divisions created to discriminate against groups of people based on economic status, racial classifications, social stratifications, and gender and sexual identities. Let us join Dr. King in his ongoing call for acceptance of all people based on the content of their character, and not the color of their skin. First in silence.....

PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE

This morning's prayer is one of Dr. King's prayers. Let us pray together in one voice...

We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children -- Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow -- will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our God, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LOVE

God promises to always love and forgive us – even when we don't always follow God's ways, when we fail to fulfill what we promise to do, when we fail to be the people we wish to be, or make mistakes we hoped we could avoid. We all need God's acceptance of us so we could live renewed lives each and every day. We are loved. Amen.

As people loved by God, please stand and greet those around you with peace we have with God. Peace of Christ be with you.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

WHEN I GET WHERE I AM GOING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, source of all light, by your Word give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:13-18

¹³ For You have created my conscience.
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise You, for I am awesomely, wonderfully made!
Wonderful are Your works—
and my soul knows that very well.
¹⁵ 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.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw me when I was unformed,
and in Your book were written the days that were formed—
when not one of them had come to be.
¹⁷ How precious are Your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand!
When I awake, I am still with You.

1 Corinthians 3:10-17

¹⁰ I laid a foundation like a wise master builder according to God's grace that was given to me, but someone else is building on top of it. Each person needs to pay attention to the way they build on it. ¹¹ No one can lay any other foundation besides the one that is already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² So, whether someone builds on top of the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, or hay, ¹³ each one's work will be clearly shown. The day will make it clear, because it will be revealed with fire—the fire will test the quality of each one's work. ¹⁴ If anyone's work survives, they'll get a reward. ¹⁵ But if anyone's work goes up in flames, they'll lose it. However, they themselves will be saved as if they had gone through a fire. ¹⁶ Don't you know that you are God's temple and God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If someone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person, because God's temple is holy, which is what you are.

MESSAGE

"New Equality"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(BASED ON THE WRITINGS OF DR. KING)

We refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events which surround us.

We refuse to believe that we are so bound to racism and war, that peace, brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.

We believe there is an urgent need for people to overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to violence and oppression.

We believe that we need to discover a way to live together in peace, a way which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of this way is love.

We believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. We believe that right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.

We believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.

We believe that what self-centered people have torn down, other-centered people can build up.

By the goodness of God at work within people, we believe that brokenness can be healed. *"And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid."* Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US SONG

COMMUNITY LIFE

*** SENDING SONG**

WE SHALL OVERCOME

*** BENEDICTION**

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Bless God at all times

All: May God's praise be continually in our mouths

One: Magnifiez Dieu avec moi (Magnify God with me)

All: Let us exalt the name of God together

One: भगवान की तलाश करें और भरे रहें (Seek God and be filled)

All: For those who seek God lack no good thing

One: Happy are those who take refuge in God

All: Come and taste that God is good

One: 世界離間我們的時候 (When the world divides us)

All: Come, Holy Spirit, make us one

One: Cuando el mundo nos llama huérfanos (When the world calls us orphaned)

All: Come Holy Spirit, make us a family

One: 세상이 우리를 그릇된 길로 인도할 때 (When the world leads us astray)

All: Come Holy Spirit, call us home

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come

All: Come and fill this place

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Daily we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Jesus – to look at our decisions and our actions straight on, and to hold them up to the light and example of Jesus and to make amends. Let us look at our lives, first in silent prayer....

PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE

Let us pray together in one voice...

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from you. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new in your powerful and gracious love. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LOVE

Friends, hear the Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are accepted and forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Amen.

As people loved by God, please stand and greet those around you with peace we have with God. Peace of Christ be with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Courage, be in our speaking. Be also in our listening, and speak to our souls' deep understanding. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 42:5-9 (Tree of Life Version)

⁵ Thus says God, *ADONAI*,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it,
and *Ruach* to those who walk in it—
⁶ “I, *ADONAI*, called You in righteousness,
I will take hold of Your hand,
I will keep You and give You
as a covenant to the people,
as a light to the nations,
⁷ by opening blind eyes,
bringing prisoners out of the dungeon,
and those sitting in darkness out of the prison house.
⁸ “I am *ADONAI*—that is My Name!
My glory I will not give to another,
Or My praise to graven images.
⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass,
Now I declare new things.
Before they spring forth
I announce them to you.”

Ruach – Spirit

Adonai – Hebrew word used in substitute for the name of God

MATTHEW 3:13-17 (Common English Version)

¹³ Jesus left Galilee and went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John kept objecting and said, “I ought to be baptized by you. Why have you come to me?”
¹⁵ Jesus answered, “For now this is how it should be, because we must do all that God wants us to do.” Then John agreed.
¹⁶ So Jesus was baptized. And as soon as he came out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. ¹⁷ Then a voice from heaven said, “This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him.”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A: We are God's work of art - each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

B: We are God's handiwork - woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

A: We are the church of Jesus Christ - diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

B: We are the Body of Christ - living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, throughout the world he loved so much.

A: We are here to be reminded once more who we are, whose we are and what our lives are about.

B: We are here to be uplifted, renewed and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us.

All: We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new. Amen.