



January 14th, 2024

Gathering

During the Prelude we invite you to greet one another with love outside the Chapel, and allow those within to meditate, pray or just listen.

Prelude “Amazing Grace” arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome

*Call to Worship

*congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader: Come, people of God, let us worship!

People: Let us enter God’s presence with praise and thanksgiving.

Leader: But worship is more than prayers and hymns.

People: Worship is about right relationships and right relationships are impossible without justice.

Leader: So let us pursue justice for all humankind.

People: For in working for justice, we are honoring and worshipping God.

*Opening Hymn #339 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Poem “Justice” by Paul Laurence Dunbar

Enthroned upon the mighty truth,
Within the confines of the laws,
True Justice seeth not the man,
But only hears his cause.

Unconscious of his creed or race,
She cannot see, but only weighs;
For Justice with unbandaged eyes
Would be oppression in disguise.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy Love, we confess that we have sinned against you by not loving one another. When we ignore injustice in the world, our worship brings you no delight. When we fail to honor the human dignity of every person, our sacrifices do not impress you. Forgive us, Lord, and

grant us your Spirit, that we may recognize that worshiping you means working for justice for all.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, take heart! God's mercy towards us rolls down like water and God's righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

People: For the gift of God's forgiveness, we praise God with joy and gratitude! Amen.

*Musical Response "Amen"

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures: Amos 5:14-15, 21-24

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (Excerpts)

by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Hymn #2194 "O Freedom" vs 1, 4, 6

(STF)

Time for Response to Sermon

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Sending

*Closing Hymn #379 “We Shall Overcome”

*Benediction

Postlude

“I’ll Fly Away”

arr. by Albert E. Brumley

Feel free to stand, chat and generally share in Fellowship as the Postlude sends us out into the world in Love.

We welcome all who worship with us this day. May you experience God’s presence and find inspiration for your journey of faith. This morning the leaders in worship are:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Pastor; **Heidi Thomas**, Music Director;

Cathy Jaynes, Liturgist; **Ryan Hodel**, Zoom Host

About the Cover Art: MLK Memorial-credit-geoff-livingston_flickr-user-geoliv

All music today is used by CCLI –1800777/One License #A-725921