

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

Rev. Kevin M. Pleas

Online Worship

January 17, 2021

PRELUDE "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" – arr. Jack Schrader Adam Peithmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Kevin Pleas

INTROIT #677 "Let There Be Peace On Earth"

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness,

People: **And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

Leader: You have comforted us through the middle passage, racism, segregation, stripped identities and unjust laws,

People: **And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

Leader: God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically loved,

People: **And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

Leader: We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of our weary years and God of our silent tears, thou who has brought us thus far on the way, we invite your presence into our midst as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality and love. We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted, every hill and mountain made low, the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight so that the glory of the Lord is revealed, and all flesh see it together. Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues, colors, ethnicities and cultures, and respect the content of their character. Let your spirit strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow until all God's children can say with full conviction, "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God All-Mighty, I'm free at last." Amen.

HYMN # 668 "For the Healing of the Nations"

PASTORAL PRAYER Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive

our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE # 583

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeanine Finefrock

Isaiah 2:1-5 (New revised Standard Version)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

“In the Light of the Lord”

Rev. Kevin Pleas

With Poems by Langston Hughes, read by Lisa Allen

HYMN # 630

“We Shall Overcome”

CLOSING WORDS

BENEDICTION (Unison)

**God we know we have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our star is cast.
And we see you at work still creating a just world for all.
We leave empowered by the fresh winds of change
And the dream that is before us
To be God’s hands, and feet and heart in this world
Today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.**

Amen

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Life Every Voice” – Mark Miller

Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer and Benediction for this service were written by the Rev. Trayce Potter, Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement, Faith Education, Innovation and Formation Team (Faith INFO) UCC.

Poems by Langston Hughes include “Harlem,” “I, Too” and “Mother to Son.”

The Prayer for Freedom, was written as Living Psalm 40:1-11, by Minister Vahisha Hasan, M.A., Ed.S., MDiv., Assistant Professor of Human Services at Memphis Center for Urban and Theological Studies, and Executive Director of Movement in Faith working at the intersections of Faith, social justice, and mental health.

Introit Hymn No. 677**“Let There Be Peace On Earth”**

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God our creator, children are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Hymn No. 668**“For the Healing of the Nations”**

1. For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords; to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase, (hope increase) fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned; pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life’s brief span, (life’s brief span) may we hallow life’s brief span.

4. You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, (may find) earth its destiny may find.

Prayer Response Hymn No. 583**“Lead Me, Guide Me”**

Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Hymn No. 630**“We Shall Overcome”**

1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday! Oh, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

2. The Lord will see us through.

3. We’ll walk hand in hand.

4. We are not afraid (today).

5. The truth shall make us free.

6. We shall live in peace.