



JANUARY 16, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

MIFFLIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:15AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

“The Upward Path”

S.K. Riggs

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS (written by Rev. Eric Thomas.)

The Prophet Micah told us that the LORD requires us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. As we celebrate Martin Luther King’s witness, let us be called to worship by some of the prophets of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1963, in his challenging letter to complacent white clergy in the South, Dr. King wrote, “We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

O God, we pray, transform our silence into action, our fear into courage.

President John F. Kennedy in an address that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 said, "The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities; whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated."

O God, we pray, help us to love you and to love others as ourselves.

Rosa Parks said, "You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear."

O God, we pray, remind us that you did not give us a spirit of fear.

Ann Braden, a white Southern activist and ally of the Civil Rights movement wrote, "In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed.

O God, we pray, help us to envision and struggle for a world where justice will roll down like water, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

HYMN

'Lead Me, Lord'

TFWS No. 473
(sing twice)

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

PROCESSIONAL HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

No. 519

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come and dream of what can be!

People: We come with so many visions of the future.

Pastor: Come and dream with God of what can be!

People: We come to catch a glimpse of God's vision for us all.

Pastor: Come and join God in making the dream reality.

People: The best reality is what God sees for us. We will join with God in bringing the dream to life.

OPENING PRAYER

We come not only to praise you, O God, but to discover anew your dream for creation. Open our minds and hearts to your great desire and then fill us with such courage that we will be faithful to your vision. Amen.

INTROIT

“Be Thou My Vision”

No. 451 V.1 & 2

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God and before one another our sins, and especially our failure to speak out for the common good.

GENERAL CONFESSION

We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. You created us to be your image and your presence in this world, as you breathed into us your own Spirit. Yet we do not speak up in your name. We see injustice, hatred, and violence all around us, and we keep silent. We are more interested in our own benefit than we are the common good of all your children. Turn us once more to the path of justice and mercy. Renew your Spirit within us, that we may follow Jesus and bring your reign to all creation. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God created us in love, and in love re-creates us in the divine image. Receive God’s gifts of forgiveness and power and live as God’s image in this world.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

No. 121 V. 1 & 2

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Whether your jars are empty or full of wine, whether your gifts seem mighty or small, they are gifts to be treasured and shared, just as we are gifts to be treasured and shared. Let us share ourselves and our gifts with the world this day.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

"O Lord of Life"

P. Blanchini

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Christ of miracles, transform the gifts we return to you, that they may be gifts of abundant life, and ever-flowing love, for a world thirsting for your grace. In gratitude and joy, we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Go from this place to reap the harvest of God's love. Go from this place to continue to sow seeds of justice, peace, and love. Go from this place to nourish and to be nourished, knowing that God is ever a part of our lives. Amen



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

A-men, a-men, a – men.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

No. 431

*POSTLUDE

"Celebration"

T. Chesterton

"WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD"

ABOUT DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) was an American Baptist minister and activist. He was the most visible leader and spokesperson in the American civil rights movement from 1954 until he was assassinated in 1968.

He advocated for advancing civil rights through nonviolent civil disobedience - inspired by his Christian beliefs and the approach of Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi. His "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech is particularly well-known.

On April 3, 1968, King travelled to Memphis, Tennessee to support a strike black public works employees. The next day, April 4, 1968, at 6:01 p.m., he was shot in the head while standing on a second floor motel, balcony surrounded by friends and associates.

Although King was not Roman Catholic, Pope John Paul II declared him to be a "Martyr for the Church" because his goals were so completely aligned with the themes of Catholic Social Teaching, viz the dignity of all people; the call to community participation and inclusion regardless of skin color, the obligation to advocate for people who are downtrodden with first preference for the needs of the poor and vulnerable people, and solidarity across the entire human family despite racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences.



Ginnie White & Sue Clapper—recovering from COVID
Ginnie's niece in Florida—killed in a motorcycle accident
Stephen Koesel—prayers needed
Pastor Russel—feeling better/continued prayers
Aubri (Ginnie's granddaughter) – diagnosed with breast cancer
Irene Chenot (Barbara's friend's mom) - cancer
Harriett, Karen, Jon (Diana Spencer's cousins) - COVID
Those affected by the tornadoes
Joe (Ginnie & Sue's cousin) - diagnosed with myeloma cancer
Jackie, Laura Lynn, Mary, Christina, Tom (friends of Ginnie's) - needing prayers
Richard Wilson - continued prayers
Barbara Thaw -diagnosed with breast cancer
Kim Viehland—recovery from hand surgery
Judy Spencer Baker - continued prayers
Nanette & Len, husband & wife (friends of Ginnie) - recovering from automobile
accident
Annie MacLemore—serious health problems, most recently cancer
Afghanistan refugees
Diamond Carter (friend of Richard's) - heart issues and a collapsed lung
Prayers that the violence will stop
Gary (Ginnie's son) - continued good health
Dick Healey (friend of Ginnie & Sue) - diagnosed with esophageal cancer
Phyllis (Dai's aunt) - improved health issues
Phillis E. (former MAUMC education director) - cancer issues
Pastor Russel W. Shuluga
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian — Pittsburgh District Superintendent
Those who are traveling
Family & friends of those who have COVID
Family & friends of those who have passed away from COVID
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
Those in silence needing prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Every Sunday—Adult Sunday School at 9:45AM

January 20th 7:30PM-Thursday Bible Study– In Person and on Zoom
Led by Larry Viehland

TODAY—Congregational meeting after church in the sanctuary.

January 17th—Zoom Church Council Meeting at 7PM—everyone from the congregation is invited to attend this meeting. Contact office for zoom login information.



Kim Viehland—January 17th

Chris Koesel—January 26th



Thank you, Kim, for leading us in worship last Sunday.



JANUARY MISSION OPPORTUNITY “WPAUMC CAMPING INITIATIVE”

January Mission Opportunity is to support the Western Pennsylvania Annual United Methodist Conference Camping Initiative.

Your donations will help to make repairs and updates to the camps and retreat locations and to provide scholarships for children to attend camp.

To make a monetary donation make your check payable to MAUMC and write “January Mission” in the memo line of your check or on your envelope.

WPAUMC Camping and Retreat Ministries serves over 20,000 people each year through camps, programs, retreats, and other ministry opportunities. These ministries are broken out between six unique locations -*At The Lake Ministries, Camp Allegheny, Healthy Village Learning Institute, Jumonville, Olmsted Manor Retreat Center, Wesley Woods* - that serve faith development.

For more information about the Camping Initiative, visit this link about Camping and Retreat Ministries <https://www.wpaumc.org/camping>.