Sunday, January 16, 2022

Human Relations Day Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance

Order of Service

Tina Thomas-Matthews, Liturgist

Welcome

Whether you regularly worship at St. Mark's United Methodist or whether you're visiting with us, we encourage you to open your hearts and minds to what says the Lord. If you are a visitor, interested in becoming a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church feel free to contact the church at 301.776.8885 | emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com | Pastor Matthews directly (443.257.2730 | reveugene@comcast.net). Our doors are always open, welcome.

Note: As we continue with our virtual services, please consider turning on your cameras and using the chat to engage in the service.

Gathering Song......"Sweet, Sweet Spirit" (Hymnal, #334)

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirt, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship.....Tina / Sandy

Leader: We gather in the presence of God and with one another.

Sandy: We come together in worship and praise.

Leader: We have gathered for a purpose.

Sandy: We come together to understand the mission that has been given to us.

Leader: We have gathered to focus.

Sandy: We gather to bear God's redeeming love to all the world.

| H | ymn of Praise | | |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| 1 | Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore. | | |
| 2 | Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, ever be my strength and shield, ever be my strength and shield. | | |
| 3 | When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside. Death of death, and hell's Destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to you, I will ever sing to you. | | |
| Pr | ayer of Confession and AssuranceTina | | |
| str of we | Lord, we confess to you we have fallen short in carrying out your desires. We have strayed away from the core of your message. We have put our own priorities ahead of yours and our neighbors. We have put off, delayed, or declined actions that would bring your justice, peace and love into the world. Forgive us and have mercy upon us, O God. We ask this in the matchless name of Jesus the Christ. Amen. | | |
| Tl | he Lord's Prayer (song by Andrea Bocelli) | | |
| Tl | ne Invocation | | |
| | ong of Meditation — "Breathe Into Me Oh Lord (Psalm 119:25)" (featuring red Hammond and Radical for Christ) | | |
| Tl | he Prayer of IlluminationTina | | |
| to | alm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts the balm of your Word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our irits leap for joy and skip with hope as your resurrection witnesses. Amen. | | |
| Sc | Pripture Reading #1 Deidre | | |
| ~ | (Isaiah 42:1–9, Common English Bible) | | |
| | od's servant described | | |
| 47 | Rut here is my servant, the one Lunhold: | | |

42 But here is my servant, the one I uphold; my chosen, who brings me delight.I've put my spirit upon him; he will bring justice to the nations.

²He won't cry out or shout aloud or make his voice heard in public.

³He won't break a bruised reed; he won't extinguish a faint wick, but he will surely bring justice.

⁴He won't be extinguished or broken until he has established justice in the land.

The coastlands await his teaching.

⁵ God the Lord says—

the one who created the heavens, the one who stretched them out, the one who spread out the earth and its offspring, the one who gave breath to its people and life to those who walk on it—

⁶I, the Lord, have called you for a good reason. I will grasp your hand and guard you, and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations,

to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison, and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

⁸ I am the Lord:

that is my name;

I don't hand out my glory to others or my praise to idols.

⁹ The things announced in the past—look—they've already happened, but I'm declaring new things.

Before they even appear,

I tell you about them.

Scripture Reading #2 Sandy (Acts 10:1–15, 21–35, Common English Bible)

Peter, Cornelius, and the Gentiles

10 There was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion in the Italian Company. ² He and his whole household were pious, Gentile God-worshippers. He gave generously to those in need among the Jewish people and prayed to God constantly. ³ One day at nearly three o'clock in the afternoon, he clearly saw an angel from God in a vision. The angel came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

The angel said, "Your prayers and your compassionate acts are like a memorial offering to God. ⁵ Send messengers to Joppa at once and summon a certain Simon, the one known as Peter. ⁶ He is a guest of Simon the tanner, whose house is near the

⁴ Startled, he stared at the angel and replied, "What is it, Lord?"

seacoast." ⁷ When the angel who was speaking to him had gone, Cornelius summoned two of his household servants along with a pious soldier from his personal staff. ⁸ He explained everything to them, then sent them to Joppa.

⁹ At noon on the following day, as their journey brought them close to the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted to eat. While others were preparing the meal, he had a visionary experience. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened up and something like a large linen sheet being lowered to the earth by its four corners. ¹² Inside the sheet were all kinds of four-legged animals, reptiles, and wild birds. ¹³ A voice told him, "Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!"

¹⁴ Peter exclaimed, "Absolutely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

¹⁵ The voice spoke a second time, "Never consider unclean what God has made pure."

²¹ So Peter went downstairs and told them, "I'm the one you are looking for. Why have you come?"

²² They replied, "We've come on behalf of Cornelius, a centurion and righteous man, a God-worshipper who is well-respected by all Jewish people. A holy angel directed him to summon you to his house and to hear what you have to say." ²³ Peter invited them into the house as his guests.

The next day he got up and went with them, together with some of the believers from Joppa. ²⁴ They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Anticipating their arrival, Cornelius had gathered his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in order to honor him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Get up! Like you, I'm just a human." ²⁷ As they continued to talk, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them, "You all realize that it is forbidden for a Jew to associate or visit with outsiders. However, God has shown me that I should never call a person impure or unclean. ²⁹ For this reason, when you sent for me, I came without objection. I want to know, then, why you sent for me."

³⁰ Cornelius answered, "Four days ago at this same time, three o'clock in the afternoon, I was praying at home. Suddenly a man in radiant clothing stood before me. ³¹ He said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayers, and your compassionate acts are like a memorial offering to him. ³² Therefore, send someone to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, located near the seacoast.' ³³ I sent for you right away, and you were kind enough to come. Now, here we are, gathered in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has directed you to say."

| ³⁴ Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. ³⁵ Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Scripture Reading #3 | | | |
| Baptism of Jesus | | | |
| At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would paptize him. ¹⁴ John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?" | | | |
| ¹⁵ Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness." | | | |
| So John agreed to baptize Jesus. ¹⁶ When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. ¹⁷ A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him." | | | |
| Doxology – "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Tina | | | |
| Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. | | | |
| The Affirmation of Faith — "The Apostles' Creed"Tina | | | |
| I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: | | | |
| And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. | | | |
| I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. | | | |
| The Gloria Patri – "Glory Be to the Father"Tina | | | |
| 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. | | | |

Hymn of Preparation — "In Your Will" (featuring Men of Standard)

Inspirational Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

"The Church's Voicemail"

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — "You Are the Living Word" (featuring Fred Hammond and Radical for Christ)

Announcements

Benediction

Announcements

Pastor's Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.) **Millicent Hrs.** — Tuesday and Thursday (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



Reminder: This is **Human Relations Sunday** (see flyer attached). This is a

special offering Sunday, so if you are able make an additional

contribution. Thank you in advance.

Note: We are fast approaching February, if you have a birthday or

anniversary, please let Cynthia know.

Tuesday Men's Bible Study (7:00 p.m.) — Zoom information/call in: <u>Click Here</u> <u>To Join Zoom Meeting.</u> Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL 0d0QT09; Meeting ID: 848 7608 7048, Passcode: 803201; Phone Option — One tap mobile: +13017158592,,84876087048#,,,,*803201# US (Washington DC)

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960

Sunday, January30th (following morning service) — Ms. Naomi Edelson, Senior Director, Wildlife Partnership of the National Wildlife Federation, members of The Laurel Police Department and other community leaders will join us in our morning Zoom worship. Immediately following worship Ms. Edelson will provide a brief overview of the" Sacred Grounds' interfaith. St. Mark's members are asked to remain on-line for the presentation. THANK YOU!!

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

January 17th thru January 23rd

| Day 17 – Genesis27:1–40 | Day 21 – Genesis 37:1–36 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Day 18 – Genesis 28:10–22 | Day 22 – Genesis 39:1–23 |
| Day 19 – Genesis 29:14–30 | Day 23 – Genesis 40:1–23 |
| Day 20 – Genesis 32:1—33:16 | |

Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

- 1. You can drop it off at the church and place it in church mailbox
- 2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
- 3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



"Proclaiming Christ to the generations... Equipping disciples to transform the world"

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

James Wilson Sr., Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom); Hayden Harris (Gemma's cousin), Floyd Hughes Sr., Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma's son), Eric Smith, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas

1909 Sheffield Court Severn, MD 21144 410.551.2435

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Ln. Bowie, MD 20716 240.245.4560

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place Douglasville, GA 39135

Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street Laurel, MD 347.423.2764



"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

-1 Corinthians 12:7, NRSV NRSV

These testimonies reflect how partnering with the Spirit through our Human Relations Day offering brings together gifts that work for the common good:

"A lot of people say where God has brought them from. God dug me out of the mud. Coming to Better Community Development's Hoover Treatment Center changed my life."

— SANDRA DAVIS

"The Human Relations Day [offering] allows our ministry to thrive in places that we would not otherwise be available to impact."

— **STEVELYN LEVIGNE**, COMMUNITY DIRECTOR FOR THE UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY DEVELOPER'S PROGRAM

"It's a community effort. You have to not just reach the child, you have to reach the entire family and the entire community, because it takes everybody... If a piece of the puzzle is missing, then the puzzle is incomplete."

— PAMELA BUTLER, SENIOR MANAGER FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HUMBLE TX HEAD START PROGRAM

Please give generously: UMC.org/SSGive





n Human Relations Day, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together for the common good, building community and sharing God's love.

HOW TO GIVE:

Write a check to your local church and write "Human Relations Day offering" in the memo line.

To give online or set up monthly giving, go to **UMC.org/SSGive**.

The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are in a time of transition. Together, God's church can be a beacon to navigate the ongoing global trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of a tumultuous political climate in the US and the anxiety of a looming denominational separation.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to be part of extending healing and hope that can guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our gifts and support, we partner with God and God's people to strengthen Christ's loving presence in a hurting world.

United Methodist Special Sunday celebrations invest in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step into a grace-filled new beginning with faithful determination.

We know how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to resources, as a denomination, our gifts on Human Relations Day work together to empower faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

Thank you for partnering your spiritual and financial gifts to build up what the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called "the beloved community."



Journeying Toward the Promised Land

A chronology of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement

January 15, 1929

Martin Luther King, Jr., is born n Atlanta, Georgia. In his late teens, King works a factory job alongside both Whites and Blacks.

1944-1948

King attends Morehouse College in Atlanta. His professors encourage a critical exploration of racial issues. King reads Thoreau's Essay on Civil Disobedience numerous times.

February 1948

At age nineteen, King is ordained and becomes assistant pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

1948 - 1951

At Crozier Theological Seminary, King engages in "a serious intellectual quest for a method to eliminate social evil," digesting various philosophies on social transformation, including Rauschenbusch, Marx, Nietzsche, Reinhold Niebuhr, and A.J. Muste. He discovers the teachings of Ghandi, from which he develops a strong belief in nonviolent resistance.

1951

King begins graduate studies in systematic theology at Boston University where he is exposed to the philosophy of personalism, "the theory that the clue to the meaning of ultimate reality is found in personality." He receives his doctorate in 1955.

June 18, 1953

King marries Coretta Scott.

September 1954

King begins a pastoral position with Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

December 1, 1955

In Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refuses to vacate her bus seat for a White man and is arrested. Parks had attended training sessions in labor and civil-rights organizing.

December 5, 1955

A bus boycott begins on the same day as Parks's trial. Several thousand gather that evening, and the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) is formed with King as president.

January 30, 1956

King's home is bombed. Addressing a crowd outside his home, King demands nonviolence.

November 13.1956

After a year-long boycott, the U.S. Supreme court declares Montgomery and Alabama bus segregation laws unconstitutional.

January 10, 1957

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is formed, with King as president. Montgomery is rocked by a series of bombings that night.

March 1957

The Kings travel to West Africa to celebrate Ghana's independence from British colonial rule.

May 17, 1957

King delivers his first national address, "Give Us the Ballot," in Washington, D.C.

September 20, 1958

At a book signing in Harlem, King is stabbed by a mentally ill woman.

February 1959

King travels to India for one month where he meets with many of Gandhi's followers.

April 18, 1959

King meets with Kenyan leader Tom Mboya

January 1960

The King family moves to Atlanta where King becomes co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church with his father, Martin Luther King, Sr.

February 1, 1960

Four students in Greensboro, North Carolina, refuse to leave their seats at a lunch counter when they are denied service, sparking a sit-in movement throughout the South. On February 16, Kind addresses the student protestors in Durham, North Carolina, imploring them to follow the moral operative of "jail, not bail," and encouraging them to consider economic boycott.

April 17, 1960

Through the organizing efforts of Ella Baker, the longtime assistant director of SCLC, the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is established to unite the sit-in protestors.

October 19, 1960

Student protestors recruit King for a sit-in demonstration in Atlanta, where he and thirty-five others are arrested.

April 10, 1961

Under a compromise reached by business owners and the Black clergy, schools and businesses in Atlanta begin to desegregate.

May 21, 1961

After suffering a series of violent attacks in Alabama, Freedom Riders on a campaign to desegregate interstate travel are addressed by King in a Montgomery church. With the church besieged by a White mob, King calls Attorney General Robert Kennedy for assistance. King begins pressuring the Kennedy's for federal civil-rights legislation.

September 22, 1961

The Interstate Commerce Commission mandates that all interstate transportation be desegregated.

October 16, 1961

King meets with President Kennedy and asks him to deliver a second Emancipation Proclamation.

December 1961

King begins a lengthy campaign in Albany, Georgia, to challenge the city's refusal to comply with the integration order. The campaign is ultimately unsuccessful.

April 1963

While in jail during a campaign to integrate Birmingham, Alabama, King writes "A Letter from Birmingham Jail" chastising liberal White clergy for their passive stance against segregation. For several months, the campaign in Birmingham includes massive civil disobedience and severe measures by city police against protestors, including high-pressure for hoses, clubs, and dogs. Several bombings occur, including at the hotel where King had been staying.

August 28, 1963

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom uses the momentum of Birmingham to move the power of mass resistance to the national stage. King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech.

September 15, 1963

Four young girls are killed in the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

January 17, 1964

President Lyndon Johnson meets with King to seek support for his "War on Poverty" initiative.

May - July 1964

King leads an effort to integrate St. Augustine, Florida. One day before Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964, St. Augustine business leaders hammer out an agreement to comply with the new law.

July 1964

With widespread integration compliance in Alabama, King begins a tour of Mississippi where the Civil Rights Act is widely ignored.

December 10, 1964

King receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

January 2, 1965

At a mass meeting in Selma, Alabama, King introduces SCLC's plans for a voter drive. On March 3, while attempting to march from Selma to Montgomery, civil rights advocates are beaten at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

August 1965

President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act. California's Proposition 14, seeking to block the fair housing component of the Civil Rights Act, creates a feeling of despair and injustice among the urban Black population. Rioting breaks out in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, leaving dozens dead and hundreds injured. King travels to Watts where he questions the effectiveness of violence.

January 1966

King moves to Chicago's South Side where he develops Operation Breadbasket to address urban economic injustice. The campaign increases black employment, business opportunities, and housing rehabilitation while strengthening black financial institutions.

June 6, 1966

In a show of unity, King, Floyd McKissick of the Congress of Racial Equality, and Stokely Carmichael of SNCC resume James Meredith's "March Against Fear" from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi, after Meredith is shot and wounded.

April 4, 1967

At Riverside Church in New York City, King denounces U.S. military action in Vietnam. Subsequently, he is harshly criticized in the media and by colleagues in the civil rights movement.

November 1967

King envisions a Poor People's Campaign—poor people camping out en masse in Washington to dramatize the need for a redirection of national priorities and resources.

April 4, 1968

King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, where he is helping to organize striking sanitation workers.

1998

The King family, after unsuccessfully petitioning President Clinton to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to explore the facts behind King's killing, files a wrongful-death suit. In December 1999, a twelve-person, mixed-race circuit court jury finds that Martin Luther King, Jr., was "murdered by an intricate plot that included government agencies."

Source: The Other Side: Strength for the Journey. Vol. 39, no. 1, January & February 2003: pgs 22-23.