

Service of Worship

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2016

10:30 AM

Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*those who are able, please stand.

GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Lord Jesus, Turn To Us* Bach

CHIMES

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our Mother-Father God
has made us to be One Body with many members.

All: United and uniting. This is our calling.

One: God calls us to share our diverse gifts
activated by the one and same Spirit .

All: United and uniting. This is our redemption.

One: God longs for us to be united in love
and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

All: United and uniting. This is our worship.

One: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and
worship to our Holy God, who challenges us
and calls us to create the Beloved Community.

***HYMN # 16** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

***PRAYER OF APPROACH** (*let us pray together . . .*)

**O God, all people are your Beloved, across races,
nationalities, religions, sexual orientations and all the
ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all
manifestations of your image. Let us know your
presence among us now.**

**Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the
mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your
steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into
hope-filled action.**

**Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we
find rest and strength, renewal and hope. We ask this,
inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther
King, Jr., and in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE**

One: Thank you, God for delighting in us even now, for
forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our
weariness, for empowering our work and inviting us
once again to create with you the Beloved
Community you long for.

All: Amen.

*MUSICAL RESPONSE

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory to the Creator,
and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

(The traditional words of the Gloria Patri are Hymn # 35)

GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Testament 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 NT pg. 174

ANTHEM

The Gospel John 2:1-11 NT pg. 93

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

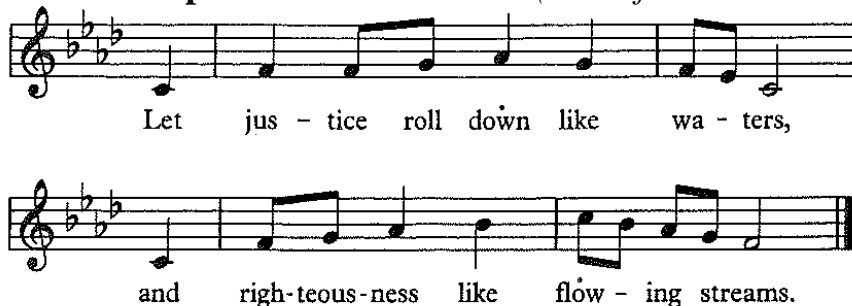
(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)

*HYMN # 70 *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

SERMON

A LITANY OF SELECTED WRITINGS

Musical Response *(taken from Amos 5:24)*



Let jus - tice roll down like wa - ters,
and righ - teous - ness like flow - ing streams.

Reader 1: The ultimate measure of humankind, according to Martin Luther King Jr., is not where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in times of challenge and controversy. *(pause....)*

O God, we pray, give us courage to be counted among those who will work for justice.

Reader 2: 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," he said, "we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." *(pause....)*

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

Musical Response

Reader 1: Inspired by the nonviolent teachings of Jesus, Thoreau, and Gandhi, King taught that nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon because it "cuts without wounding and ennoble the one who wields it. Nonviolence is a sword that heals." *(pause....)*

O God, we pray, heal this nation through the work of our hands.

Reader 2: In 1964, in accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, he said that "unarmed truth and unconditional love *will* have the final word in reality. Right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant." *(pause....)*

O God, we pray, may we always trust in the strength of your goodness.

Musical Response

Reader 1: In 1967, King wrote that, in the wealthiest nation in the world, the solution to poverty is simply this: “We must abolish it!” (*pause....*)

O God, we pray, rearrange the priorities of peoples and nations so that all will receive in equal measure.

Reader 2: And on the day before his death, Dr. King described his ministry succinctly: “I just want to do God’s will.” (*pause....*)

O God, we pray, raise up prophets among us who will lead us in your ways.

Musical Response

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison*)

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.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Salvation Comes To Us

Anonymous

*Musical Response

For the Life You Have Given

For the life that you have giv - en, for the love in

Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these

gifts that are your own: here we of - fer, Lord, our prais - es;

heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to

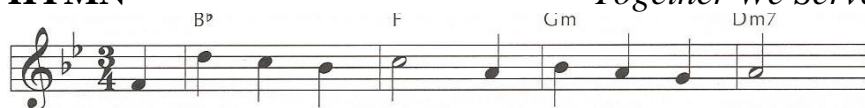
love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*let us pray together . . .*)
God, we come with an offering of our material and spiritual gifts. Thank you for the diversity and abundance of these gifts. May they be used to build up the church and heal our world. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

*HYMN

Together We Serve



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong,



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

*BENEDICTION

CHIMES

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue

Bach

Worship Notes

- The Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, New York City.
- Second musical response taken from Psalter, Psalm 76, United Methodist Hymnal, music by Carlton R. Young 1989. ©1998 The United Methodist Publishing House. Third response: words by Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987. Music: Leavitt's Christina Lyre, 1830/31. Text ©1990 Hope Publishing Company. Final hymn: text and music by Daniel Charles Damon, 1996. ©1998 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net, License # A-725159.)

Excerpt from Letter from the Birmingham Jail

The following is an excerpt from an open letter written on April 16, 1963, by Martin Luther King Jr.. The letter defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism.

I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block is not the White Citizen's Council-er or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice, who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice, who constantly says "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action," who paternalistically believes that he can set the timetable for another's man's freedom.

Worship Service
Participants

Ushers and Greeters
the Bertram family

Worship Leader
Gary Harrington

Lectors
Dottie and Bill Hopkins

Acolytes
Maddie Dermott,
Justin Dermott

Nursery Volunteers
Carol Costell Corbin,
Molly Ulrich

Coffee Hour
the Bertram family

Attendance
January 10 - 58

Please note: Annual Reports
and Contribution Statements are
available on the table in the
Russell Fellowship Room.

Life in the Parish
Week of January 17

TODAY – January 17

10:30 am – Worship service
11:45 am – Transition Team
forum
12:30 pm – Youth Group
bowling at Hi-lanes

MONDAY – January 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
office closed

5:30 pm – Interfaith Dinner at
the SUNY Cortland Interfaith
Center
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets in
RFR

TUESDAY – January 19

2:00 pm – Bridge group
7:00 pm – Homer Brass
rehearsal

WEDNESDAY – January 20

7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

SATURDAY – January 23

5:00 pm – Pie Day Party in the
Russell Fellowship Room

SUNDAY – January 24

10:30 am – Worship service
11:00 am – Annual Meeting
begins, then Dish-to-Pass
lunch break

NOTES AND NOTICES

Today:

- The **Transition Team** will present their Congregational and Community Assessment following the worship service. Please plan to be in attendance. Following this presentation additional work will focus on responding to the Assessment with ascertaining what God calling us to do and what type of pastor will lead us into the future? These questions require a willingness to learn anew the purpose of the church and we hope you are up for the challenge!
- The Youth Group will meet **today** at Hi-Lanes at **12:30** for bowling. Pizza will be provided.

Interfaith Dinner – on Monday, January 18 at the Interfaith Center on the campus of SUNY Cortland (7 Calvert Street, Cortland) a simple meal of soups, salads, breads, and other faith-related/cultural foods will be served. Gathering will begin at 5:30, meal at 6:00, CROP Walk awards at 6:45 and a conversation about foods and faith traditions at 7:00. If you are able, kindly RSVP to cortlandchurches@aol.com. Parking is available in the Dowd parking lot. All are welcome.

Please join us on **National Pie Day, January 23, 5:00-7:00 pm**. Bring ANY KIND OF PIE you like and \$5 (to donate to the Homer Food Pantry) and we will all share fellowship, and tastes of all our pies!

Call to the Annual Meeting, January 24, 2016, (Snow Date January 31, 2016). The First Religious Society in the Town of Homer and the Homer Congregational Church will hold their Annual Meetings for the purpose of: receiving Annual Reports for 2015; electing officers and members of boards and committees; voting on Annual Budgets for 2016; conducting any other business which may be necessary. The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM with a break for a "**dish-to-pass luncheon**". People are asked to bring their own table service. All are welcome and urged to attend. Childcare will be provided. Please note that the worship service will be slightly truncated.