

**The Homer Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**
January 14, 2018 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 am Worship

I HAVE DECIDED
TO STICK WITH

love.

HATE IS TOO GREAT
A BURDEN TO BEAR.

MLK

Homer Congregational
United Church of Christ

Sunday, January 14, 2018
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Serving us in ministry today:

Bonnie Haaland ~ Deacon of the Month
Terre & Lee Dennis/Jan & Bert Bertram ~ Greeters/Ushers
Cindy Stout ~ Nursery
Anne Wingard ~ Flowers
The Ulrich Family ~ Coffee Hour

TODAY:

4 pm Disciple Bible Study
7 pm Bells

THIS WEEK:

Mon. @ 4 pm A reading of MLK's
Letter from Birmingham Jail.

Tues. *Rev. Gary Smith begins!*
2:00 pm Bridge Group
6:30 pm Trustees meet

Wed. @ 7 pm Choir

Thurs.
9:30 am Silver Polishing Party
11am Bible Study
1 pm Disciple Bible Study

COMING UP:

Sun., Jan. 21 ***Annual Meeting***

Service of Worship
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 2018 10:30 am

For Quiet Meditation

Suffering is not God's desire for us, but it occurs in the process of life. Suffering is not given to teach us something, but through it we may learn. Suffering is not given to punish us, but sometimes it is the consequence of our... poor judgement. Suffering does not occur because our faith is weak, but through it our faith may be strengthened. God does not depend on human suffering to achieve God's purposes, but sometimes through suffering God's purposes are achieved. Suffering can either destroy us, or it can add meaning to our life.

Adam Hamilton's ~ Half Truths

WE GATHER

**those who are able, please stand*

Welcome

Prelude

Introit for Epiphany

Durufle

Chimes

Call to Worship

One: Welcome, people of God!

Many: Some have been here for decades and some have been here for weeks. No matter, for today we gather here as one family of faith.

One: In the midst of January days, we remember the life, teachings and deep faith of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Many: As we remember, may God's Spirit envelop our worship and every moment of our living.

*Hymn

I Have A Dream (vs. 1-3)

tune: "Dear Lord, and Father of Mankind"

"I have a dream", a man once said,
"where all is perfect peace;
where men and women, black and white,
stand hand in hand, and all unite
in freedom and in love."

But in this world of bitter strife
the dream can often fade;
reality seems dark as night,
we catch but glimpses of the light
Christ sheds on humankind.

Fierce persecution, war, and hate
are raging everywhere;
God calls us now to pay the price
through struggles and through sacrifice
of standing for the right.

Honesty in Prayer

We recognize, Holy One, that neither the racist degradation of a Birmingham jail, nor Martin's bloody martyrdom on a Memphis motel balcony could shake his fidelity to Christ's message of love. Today we remember his words:

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it.

Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it.

Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it...

In Martin, you gave us a gift of brilliant insight and articulation on living as the Body of Christ. As we worship, embolden us to choose love in our daily living. Amen.

GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

Children's Moment

Scripture Deuteronomy 30:15-20
One: For the Word of God in scripture,
 For the Word of God among us,
 For the Word of God within us,
Many: Thanks be to God.

Anthem Precious Lord

Sermon Everything Happens for a Reason

OUR RESPONSE

Silence is kept

*Hymn #566 Be Still My Soul (vs. 1 & 2)

Prayers of the people
Our Lord's Prayer

Offering

An Invitation to Give

Offertory Rejoice Greatly O My Soul Karl-Elert

*Doxology (*tune: "All Creature of our God and King"*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

**May the gifts we offer bring food to the hungry,
healing to the broken, community to the lonely,
and hope to those who live in the shadows of
our time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

Announcements

*Hymn I Have A Dream (vs. 4 & 5)
So dream the dreams and sing the songs,
but never be content:
for thoughts and words don't ease the pain:
unless there's action, all is vain;
faith proves itself in deeds.

Lord, give us vision, make us strong,
help us to do your will;
don't let us rest until we see
your love throughout humanity
uniting us in peace.

*Benediction

*Postlude Let All Together Praise Our God Ore

A special invitation

Join Pastor Vicki at 4 pm on Monday for a reading of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Bring a warm beverage to sip, and we will listen to the important words penned by Dr. King as he responded to a letter sent by a group of clergy. There will be time for discussion, concluding by about 5 pm.

ADDITIONAL NOTES OF INTEREST:

Today during Sunday School, our young people went to the store to purchase items for hygiene kits. This project has been their goal for their offerings this fall. Next Sunday, they will pack the kits and prepare them to be sent to Church World Service. Eventually these gifts will be sent to places in the world experiencing natural disasters.

We are preparing for Lent! Bill Hopkins will be leading a book discussion based on one of his personal favorites, *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl. Whether you plan to participate or not, you may purchase a copy of the book for \$19.50 (large print, paperback). Please add your name to the sign-up sheet today.

Getting ready for Annual Meeting next Sunday: Worship will be abbreviated and followed by the meetings of The First Religious Society of Homer and the Homer Congregational Church. All are welcome to attend.

- Pick up copies of Annual Reports today so you can read them before next week. **NOTE:** if you picked up a copy last week, we encourage you to get a fresh copy, as there have been some edits and updates.
- Lunch next Sunday will be a dish-to-pass. Please bring a dish to share.

Welcome friends!

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us. If you would like more information about our church, please let Pastor Vicki, the worship leader, or one of the greeters know. We hope you will choose to stay for refreshments and conversation following our service.

You should also know that we believe children of all ages have a place here. One of our greeters can bring you a children's bulletin and a "busy bag." After the Children's Time, small children may head to our nursery, where we provide trained caregivers and a fruit snack for the wee ones.

Here's how to reach out to us...

Rev. Vicki Burtson, Pastor

607.624.9940 (cell/text)
pastor@homercc.org

Joseph Ford, Director of Music

Bev Berry, Financial Secretary

Andrea Herzog, Treasurer

James Shultes, Organist

Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells

Gary Harrington, Sexton

Anne Wingard, Office Administrator

office@homercc.org

Our office is open Monday – Thursday from 9 am – noon

phone: 607.749.2604

web site: homercc.com

Our digital calendar is at homercc.com/calendar

Service information

- Individual listening headsets are available to provide hearing assistance to anyone in need. Ask our greeters for help.
- Prayer request sheets are at each entrance. Your prayers will be offered later in today's service.