



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope



First Church in Windsor, UCC

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
The Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 16, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

***Litany for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr**

- One: In every era, God has chosen men and women to serve the needs of his people. Such a servant was Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth we celebrate.
- Two: May the wisdom and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rekindle our faith.**
- One: May the deep love that Dr. King had for all people be released in us, that we too might work miracles in the lives of those who continue to hate.
- Two: Dr. King taught that only love can overcome hatred, bitterness and fear.**
- One: May his struggle for social transformation continue in this generation. May all people come to believe that with perseverance, "We Shall Overcome."
- Two: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream."
(Amos 5:24)**
- One: May the work of Dr. King continue to eradicate racial injustice and its ungodly consequences.
- Two: Dr. King pursued his dream of racial equality by appealing to the conscience of his enemies.**
- One: May we continue to cultivate the nonviolent discipline of Dr. King, abandoning unrestrained acts of force.
- Two: He taught us that a heart full of grace and love is just as important as an education.**
- One: May the spirit of Dr. King continue to flow through our daily living.
- Two: He believed in self-respect and dignity, even though he knew that there would be difficult days ahead.**
- One: May we have the courage of Dr. King as we continue to stand up for justice, reconciliation and truth, despite challenge and controversy.
- Two: Dr. King said that war is never a victory, regardless of the outcome.**
- One: May the peace of the risen Christ cause the fury of war to vanish from the face of the earth.
- Two: Dr. King went to the mountain top; he saw the Promised Land; and he reassured us that we will get there one day. God of Glory, be with us on the journey.**

***Hymn**

Glory, Glory Hallelujah
African American spiritual
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**Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.**

**I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.**

**Feel like shouting “Hallelujah!” since I laid my burdens down.
Feel like shouting “Hallelujah!” since I laid my burdens down.**

**I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.
I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.**

**Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burden down.
Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burden down.**

Prayer of Invocation

Dear God, we celebrate, commemorate, and honor the life and works of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his family, and those who labored in the vineyard with them. We pray that our words will lift our own hearts and spur us to action, engage the disaffected, and enliven dry bones in broken communities to become shining lights of victory for this present generation and generations to come. Hear our Prayer, Oh God. Amen and Amen.

***Prayer of our Savior**

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Children’s Moment

Scripture

1 John 4: 16-21

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

“The Wisdom of Becoming God's Beloved Community”

Modern Lesson

“I Have a Dream”

*Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Words by James Weldon Johnson
Music by John Rosamond Johnson
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Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Lead Me
Words and music by Doris Akers
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**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, O Lord, lead me.**

Announcements

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. We encourage you to give online [here](#).

*Benediction (responsive)

As the Savior so taught...go now and overcome.

Overcome racial hatred with love and understanding.

Overcome sexism with mutual honor and respect.

Overcome social inequities with fair and equal educational and employment opportunities.

Overcome mean-heartedness with a kind word or good deed.

Overcome war, poverty, hunger, and suffering throughout our urban streets and rural lands, by sharing the love of Christ Jesus with your neighbor.

Go now and overcome!

We will overcome!

Postlude

Down by the Riverside
African-American Spiritual
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Today's prayers were adapted and used by permission: Call to Worship is from the African American Heritage Hymnal; Prayer of Invocation Benediction from www.AfricanAmericanlectionary.com.

The video "I Have a Dream" was produced and used by permission of www.saltproject.org. On August 28, 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a speech that rallied a generation. Over fifty years later, the dream lives on. As communities across the country prepare to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 18th, SALT's Emmy Award winning short film, I Have a Dream, creatively embodies the famous last four minutes of King's inspiring speech.

*Please stand as you are able
Bolded Font to be read by all