



January 15, 2023 – Livestream
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amy Sell

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Kum Ba Yah

arr. A. Hailstork

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, children of the Sovereign God.

People: We sing with joy to the Lord of love.

Leader: Come, people of the Saving Christ.

People: We sing with hope in the God of life.

*OPENING HYMN #733

Marching to Zion

***Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.***

***Refrain: We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.***

***Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad. [Refrain]***

***The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields,
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. [Refrain]***

***Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. [Refrain]***

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God,
whose love governs the universe,
strengthen our hands to do your work of justice,
widen our hearts to share your gift of mercy,
and open our eyes to see your vision of peace
for all people and for the glory of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Light after darkness, gain after loss, strength after weakness, crown after cross;
 Sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wandering, praise after tears.
*Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, He is making all things new, springs of living water
 shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new.*
 Sight after mystery, oh sun after rain, joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
 near after distant, oh gleam after gloom, oh love after loneliness, life after tomb. *Refrain*

*MLK LITANY

Leader: "When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response. Love is the most durable power in the world. This creative force, so beautifully exemplified in the life of our Christ, is the most potent instrument available in mankind's quest for peace and security. Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it."

People: We will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Leader: "I am convinced that if we succumb to the temptation to use violence in our struggle for freedom, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate night of bitterness, and our chief legacy to them will be a never-ending reign of chaos."

People: We will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Leader: "We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right. Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy and transform our pending national elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity."

People: Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Leader: "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up."

People: Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Leader: "I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of thermonuclear destruction. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant."

People: Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Leader: "There is little hope for us until we become tough-minded enough to break loose from the shackles of prejudice, half-truths, and downright ignorance. We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."

People: O God, let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We will fulfill what you require of us: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸ Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹ as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰ Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹ I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²² Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #474

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

***Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:***

[Refrain] *Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

***When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: [Refrain]***

***When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand: [refrain]***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sunil Kotian

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2176

Make Me a Servant

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Amy Sell

If you are giving to the Human Relations Day Offering please mark your envelope/memo line: "HRD Offering."

Leah Crane, soloist; Cathedral Singers

I will sing of God's mercy. Every day, every hour, he gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to thee for all the dangers, toils, and snares that he has brought me out. He is my God, and I'll serve him no matter what the test. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet. I know God is able to deliver in time of storm. I know that He'll keep you safe from all earthly harm. One day when my weary soul is at rest, I'm going home to be forever bless'd. Trust and never doubt. Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet. Didn't my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh? And didn't He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? When I think of what my God can do, He delivered Daniel, I know He will deliver you. Trust and never doubt. Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet!

*Doxology #94

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow****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!***

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Dangerous Unselfishness

Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #2182

*When God Restored Our Common Life****When God restored our common life, our hope, our liberty,******at first it seemed a passing dream, a waking fantasy.******A shock of joy swept over us, for we had wept so long;******the seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.******We went forth weeping, sowing seeds in hard, unyielding soil;***

*with laughing hearts we carry home the fruit of all our toil.
We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.
The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.*

*Great liberating God, we pray for all who are oppressed.
May those who long for what is right with justice now be blest.
We pray for those who mourn this day, and all who suffer wrong;
may seeds they water now with tears spring up into a song.*

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Kum Ba Yah

arr. J. Behnke

For more information about the Human Relations Day Offering, visit:
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/human-relations-day-sunday-ministry-article>

*The white carnations on the altar are in celebration of the lives of the following people who recently passed away:
Bernard Wurger (12/21/22), Stuart Stinnette (12/31/22), Dotti Gerner (1/8/23) and Richard Clapp (1/9/23)*

This week's worship leaders

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Frank A. Thomas, Christian Theological Seminary, *Guest Preacher*
Sunil Kotian, *Pastor of Mission & Outreach*
Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*
John Hague, James Horton and Allen McCormack, *Audio Visual*
Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Upcoming Events

Today, 5:00pm - Forum on the eviction crisis
Tuesdays from Jan 24-Feb 28, 6-7:30pm - "6 Ways We Encounter God,"
A study led by Pastor Sunil (in person and online).
Jan 28, 5-6:30pm - "The Working Hungry," a film by Indy Hunger Network
Feb 3, 7pm - Indiana Pacers Game
Feb 5, 1-3pm - Cookies and Canvas
Feb 21, 5:30-7pm - Mardi Gras