



National City Christian Church

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
January 15, 2017, at 11 a.m.
5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005
202-232-0323 www.nationalcitycc.org

Welcome to National City Christian Church, national church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a house of prayer that is open to and affirming of all people. Thank you for joining us in worship. Please fill out the Connect with Us card, and place it in the offering tray. On this holiday weekend when we remember the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., may today's worship fill us with hope and call us to acts of justice and kindness in Christ's name.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Worship Leaders: Kenneth Lowenberg, Eva Moore, and Sharon Stanley-Rea
Preacher: Stephen Gentle, Senior Pastor

PRELUDE Prelude on *Shall We Gather at the River?* arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Solemn Processional Robert A. Harris (b.1938)

MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME Stephen Gentle

INTROIT John L. Bell

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil
Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours through him who loved us.

Text: Desmond Tutu, adapt.

✧ OPENING HYMN No. 464

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

Please join in singing verses 1, 2, 3, and 5. The choir will sing verse 4 alone.

✧ RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE Eva Moore

Leader: Come, let us worship God who made all things and rules over all.

People: Praise to you, God of peoples, nations, planets, and stars!

Leader: Come, let us worship God who has come among us in Jesus Christ.

People: Praise to you, our Lord and brother, who comes to reconcile and heal!

Leader: Come, let us worship God who is with us in this place and remains with us always.

People: Praise to you, Spirit of unity, Breath of life and Fire of justice!

Leader: Be with us as we gather and fill us with your blessings.

People: Strengthen us to be your people and nourish us to be witnesses of your truth.

Leader: We dedicate this worship service in the name of Jesus who taught his disciples to pray, saying:

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, the power, and the glory, forever.

✧ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 630 (1, 5)

We Shall Overcome

MARTIN

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free someday!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe, we shall overcome someday!

(✧ Please stand as you are able.)

THE COMMUNITY HEARS GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Eva Moore

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

PSALM

Here Am I, Lord (Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10)

Michel Guimont

Please repeat the refrain after the cantor and again after each stanza



Here am I, Lord; here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord, who stooped down to me, who heard my cry;
who put a new song into my mouth: praise of our God. **R.**

You delight not in sacrifice or offerings, but in an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Then I said, "See, I have come." **R.**

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me: "I delight to do your will, O my God;
your instruction lies deep within me." **R.**

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **R.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Eva Moore

John 1:29-42

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

ANTHEM

African-American Spiritual

Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name

arr. Brazeal W. Dennard

Alia Waheed Ky, soloist

Hush, hush, somebody's callin' my name.

Oh, my, I'm so glad that trouble don't last always.

Oh, my Lord, what shall I do? I'm so glad I got my 'ligion in time. Oh, glory, Lord!

Soon one mornin' death come creepin' in my room.

Lord, oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

Hush, hush, somebody's callin' my name.

Darkness Turn to Dawning

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Stephen Gentle

As we remember the example of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on our call to follow Christ, let us lift our hearts and voices to God in prayer for the church, our country, and our world.

Let us pray for Christian communities here and throughout the world, including First Christian Church in Baltimore, and Sarah Williams in India.

May followers of Jesus use the gifts they have received from God's Spirit to proclaim good news to the poor and to set people free.

Let us pray for our new president and for all who serve in public office.

Open the eyes, minds, and hearts of all who exercise political power, and give them wisdom to advance peace among nations, reconciliation among people, justice for the poor, and freedom for the oppressed.

Let us pray for all who suffer discrimination on account of race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

May society be transformed so that all people may be accepted, supported, and valued.

Let us pray for all who work for peace and justice in the world.

May the voice of prophets be strong and be a light to the nations to herald the coming of God's realm.

Let us pray for all those in need, including those listed in our prayer concerns.

May God's merciful love extend to victims of war, violence, abuse, or disasters; and to those who are poor, homeless, hungry, or unemployed.

Let us pray for our country.

May the prophetic voice of Martin Luther King, Jr. continue to guide us to work for a society that fosters equality, dignity, and the inclusion of all.

God of all nations, you have called us to be your people and to shine your light into the dark places of this world.

Strengthen us with your gifts to be fearless witnesses to your reign of love and justice. We make our prayer in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO GOD'S GRACE

Those desiring to become members of the community of National City Christian Church, either by transfer of membership, profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or as an associate member, are invited to come forward during the hymn.

✠ HYMN OF COMMITMENT

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

No. 484

MESSAGE

GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Beverly Goines

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God's Gonna Set This World on Fire

African-American Spiritual
arr. Moses Hogan and Edwin B. Hogan

God's gonna set this world on fire,
God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days, hallelujah.

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table . . .

I'm gonna eat and never get hungry . . .

I'm gonna drink and never get thirsty . . .

God's gonna set this world on fire . . .

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures here below;
 praise God above, ye heav'nly hosts:
 Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Sharon Stanley-Rea

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Natalie Carson

Elder: God of power and might, we raise our hearts and voices in thankful praise.

People: You are the one God, creator and ruler of all.

Elder: Throughout history you have called women and men to announce your justice and confront the powerful.

People: Your Son Jesus, proclaimed good news to the poor, opened the eyes of the blind, and announced liberty to captives.

Elder: In love he gave his life for us on the cross and rose again so that all might be set free.

People: He has called us to follow in his way of selfless love and to carry on his mission in the world.

Elder: Send your Spirit on us this day and on the holy meal that we share.

People: Draw us together in love as the one body of Christ and strengthen us for service.

Elder: We praise you, O God, at all times and in all places,

People: through your Son Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

Gary Lewis

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Sharon Stanley-Rea

This table is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Please come forward by the center aisle as directed. When receiving communion, take the bread and dip it into the cup. Return to your seat by the side aisle. If you prefer to remain seated, communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION HYMN

No. 425 (1)

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Let Us Break Bread Together*arr. Charles Callahan
(b. 1951)**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH TO SERVE**

✠ GOING FORTH

No. 631

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

✠ BENEDICTION

Stephen Gentle

POSTLUDE

 Postlude on Two Spirituals:
Go Down, Moses and I Want to Be Ready

arr. Charles Callahan

Following the worship service, pastors and elders are at the back and side doors of the Sanctuary to greet you. All are invited to the Atrium for coffee and fellowship immediately following the service.