

Welcome

PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 17, 2021 | 10:00 am
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Quiet Prayer
Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler, organ

Florence Beatrice Price

Words of Welcome

Wes Avram

Call to Worship

Wes Avram

Down to the River to Pray trad., arr. Sheldon Curry
Schae Chapman, soloist • Chamber Choir, Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler, director

Refrain

*As I went down to the river to pray,
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way.*

*O brothers, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
Come one brothers, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

*O mothers, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
Come on mothers, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

Refrain

Refrain

*O sisters, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
O sisters, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

*O fathers, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
O fathers, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

*O sinners, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
O sinners, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

Refrain

Refrain

Refrain

Children's Message

Hillary Mackowski

*"Virtual Church School" is available to preschool-5th grade students each Sunday 10:15 - 11:00 am via Zoom.
Email Director of Children's Ministry for login instructions; hmackowski@pinnaclepres.org*

Choral Response

Go, My children with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Call to Confession

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
Chamber Choir

Will L. Thompson

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.
Come home, come home,
Ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling "O sinner, come home!"*

Common Confession and Assurance (unison)

Michael Hegeman

Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen. Now hear our silent prayers of confession. (silence)

*** Congregational Response**

I Love the Lord, He Heard My Cry
Chamber Choir

Richard Smallwood

*I love the Lord, he heard my cry;
And pitied every groan.
Long as I live, while troubles rise,
I'll hasten to his throne.*

*** Passing of the Peace**

Michael Hegeman

Scripture Readings

Lamentations 3:25-36
Luke 6:26-31

Michael Hegeman
Wes Avram

Sermon

An Impossible Faith

Wes Avram

Common Prayer, Lord's Prayer (unison)

Michael Hegeman

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.

For those joining us online, you may make your donation by texting pinnaclepres to 77977 or
online at pinnaclepres.org/give

Offertory

Musical Offering

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

No. 229

*1 From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia*

*2 In every land begin the song,
To every land the strains belongs:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise
And fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Our Common Life

Wes Avram

Connection Moment

Marti King

Closing Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

No. 563

*1 Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the dark
past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our
new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.*

*2 Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the day when hope unborn
had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our
parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with
tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our
path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now
we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright
star is cast.*

*3 God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on
the way;
Thou who hast by thy might
Led us into the light;
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our
God, where we met thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of
the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we
forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.*

The Charge

Wes Avram

Sending Music

Toccata on "Lift Every Voice"
Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler, organ

Mark Miller

* Please rise, lift your head, lift your arms, or lift your spirit.

Today's Common Confession is a prayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, collected in *Thou, Dear God* (edited by Lewis V. Baldwin, Beacon Press, 2012) and quoted by John Dear in the January 15, 2013 issue of the *National Catholic Reporter*.

Scripture

Lamentations 3:25-36

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
27 It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,
28 to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it,
29 to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope),
30 to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.
31 For the Lord will not reject forever.
32 Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
33 for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.
34 When all the prisoners of the land are crushed under foot,
35 when human rights are perverted in the presence of the Most High,
36 when one's case is subverted — does the Lord not see it?

Luke 6:26-31

26 “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Love for Enemies

27 “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

About the Music

To celebrate Martin Luther King Day, most of the music selections today are by African-American composers or stem from the Gospel music tradition.

Organist, conductor and composer Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) is the first known African-American woman, whose symphonic music was performed by a major American orchestra. Her “Quiet Prayer” establishes the meditative mood for this service with lyric melodies and spacious harmonies, which imitate the sounds of a string orchestra.

We will be called to worship with one of the most popular arrangements of the traditional “Down to the River to Pray.” Most known from the movie “O Brother, Where Art Thou,” this version was composed by a Tucson-based and Grammy-nominated musician Sheldon Curry.

Our gentle Call to Confession “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” by Will L. Thompson was sung at the funeral for Dr. Martin Luther King.

The Congregational Response “I Love the Lord, He Heard My Cry,” written by one of the most famous Gospel artists, Richard Smallwood, will captivate you with its amazing harmonies heard best when sung a cappella.

The service will end with the powerful hymn composed by Johnson brothers for Abraham Lincoln’s birthday in 1905, “Lift Every Voice and Sing”. United Methodist organist and composer Mark Miller set a glorious organ Toccata to this hymn, which will conclude our MLK tribute today.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following members & friends:

- *For a friend, diagnosed with breast cancer and having lumpectomy surgery;*
- *For Ken, in Michigan, hospitalized with COVID;*
- *For Barb, in Canada, diagnosed with breast cancer;*
- *For Dosia, hospitalized with COVID;*
- *For Cassidy, whose cancer has spread to her brain;*
- *For a friend, diagnosed with breast cancer and having lumpectomy surgery;*
- *For Angie and her family on a new cancer diagnosis;*
- *For Debi who has been battling kidney stones and infections;*
- *For our men and women in the military.*

Contact Lisa Boswell at prayer@pinnaclepres.org or call 480.585.9448 to add your request to the Pinnacle prayer list.