January 17, 2021

GUIDE FOR WORSHIP

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude

Call to Worship

We call to remembrance this morning Dr. Martin Luther King’s work for justice for all people. King often said, “We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

King warned that

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

Holy Presence, inspire us to respond to injustice with your guidance. Help us be patient as we watch for Your justice to roll down.

Gathering Song

“Let Justice Roll”
Gathering Prayer
Sacred Guide, we turn to you this morning with open hearts to discern how we can help bring light to the darkness in the world.

King said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.  

Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.  

We learn in Psalm 18 that  
Those who love truth will see your Light;  

Those who walk in justice will see your Mercy;  

Those who live with integrity, will see  
You in all they meet;  

But those whose path is crooked,  
who walk on the low road,  
will live in the shadows of fear.  

Help us stand with love during this troubled time so we do not slip into the hate that is all around us.  
Guide us with the light of your love. Amen  

Children’s Time
Kim Fine  

Scripture Reading
Amos 5:24 NRSV  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  

Psalm 85:10-13 NRSV  
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness [justice] and peace will kiss each other.  
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.  

Music for Reflection  
“I Know Where I've Been”  
Nadia Maddex Vocalist  

Message  
Pulling the Thread of Justice
Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer
Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song of Response
“Go Light Your World”
by Chris Rice

Mission Moment
Judy Kamper

Breathing in God’s Blessings

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song
“Standing at the Future’s Threshold”
verses 1, 2, & 4

Standing at the future’s threshold, grateful for God’s guiding hand,
Asking no protected stronghold, called to be a pilgrim band,
Seeking ever for new vision of the gospel for our day,
We move forward in God’s mission with our faith to show the way.

Midst the teeming cities’ millions, witness to God’s boundless love,
Reaching for each system’s lost ones, seeking justice with each move;
Grant us courage, strength, and patience to contend with vicious power,
Lead us forward in the faith that gives us hope in testing’s hour.

Building justice as the bulwark of the peace that God would give,
Making sacrifice the hallmark of the life we’re called to live;
Grant us, God, to bear our witness to this peace in Christ, and move
Forward with our faith’s own access to the life of hope and love.

Postlude

Sources:
The Gathering Prayer is created from excerpts of Psalm 18 in Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness by Nan C. Merrill, 2008.

Music for Reflection from the play Hairspray
Let Justice Roll

Let justice roll, roll down like water, and
righteousness like a flowing stream.

Let justice roll, roll down like water, and
righteousness like a flowing stream.

From: Roll Down, Justice! (CGBK72).
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