

Peace United Church of Christ

January 16, 2022

10:30am

Feast of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr (1968) Pastor and Martyr



Rev. James Mitulski, Interim Pastor

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(218) 724-3637

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Feast of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr (1968) Pastor and Martyr

Liturgists

The People of Peace Church
Laurie Berner, Lay Reader
Jim Pospisil, Music Director
Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Minister
Rev. Charlotte Frantz, Interim Pastoral Associate
Rev. James Mitulski, Interim Pastor

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Peace Bells

*Call to Worship *Adapted, Trinity UCC, Chicago*
(*Indicates "please stand"; Text in **bold** is spoken by the congregation)

Beautiful are the works of God!

Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!

Beautiful is the mind of God!

Beautiful are the hopes of God's people!

Beautiful is the heart of God!

Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!

God made the heavens and the earth!

To God be the glory for the things God has done!

*Unison Prayer by Coretta Scott King (adapted)

Eternal and everlasting God, who is the Parent of all humankind, as we turn aside from the hurly-burly of everyday living, may our hearts and souls, yea, our very spirits, be lifted upward to You, for it is from You that all blessing comes. Keep us ever mindful of our dependence upon You, for without You our efforts are but naught. We pray for more faith and above all we pray for more love. May we somehow come to understand the true meaning of Your love as revealed to us in the life, death and resurrection of Your Child and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May the Cross ever remind us of Your great love, for greater love no one has given. This is our supreme example, O God. May we be constrained to follow in the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn "I Have a Dream" (see page 4 of bulletin)

Story for All Ages by Nathan Holst

Contemporary Lesson: Excerpt from King's *Letter from Birmingham City Jail*
(see page 8 of bulletin)

Anthem "Love Is a More Excellent Way" Susan Larson Kidd, soloist

Gospel Luke 6:27-36

Hymn "Black Lives Matter" (see page 5 of bulletin)

Sermon "Dr. King is Still Speaking" by Pastor Jim Mitulski

Hymn "Precious Lord" (#472 in hymnal)

Community Prayers, Lord's Prayer, Choral Amen

Offering

Offertory "MLK" by U2 Nathan Holst, soloist

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn "We Shall Overcome"

"One cannot describe the vitality and emotion this one song evokes across the Southland. I have heard it sung in great mass meetings with a thousand voices singing as one; I've heard a half-dozen sing it softly behind the bars of the Hinds County prison in Mississippi; I've heard old women singing it on the way to work in Albany, Georgia; I've heard the students singing it as they were being dragged away to jail. It generates power that is indescribable." *Wyatt Tee Walker*

With quiet determination

We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -
come, We shall o - ver - come some-day
oh, deep in my heart (I know that)
I do be - lieve (oh) we shall o - ver - come some-day.

Chords: C, F, C, C, F, C, Am, D7, G, D7, G, F, Em, F, G7, Am, C, F, C, G7, C

2. We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome someday.

3. We are not alone . . . (today)

4. The truth will make us free . . .

5. We'll walk hand in hand . . .

6. The Lord will see us through . . .

7. Black and white together (now) . . .

8. We shall all be free.

*Benediction and Postlude

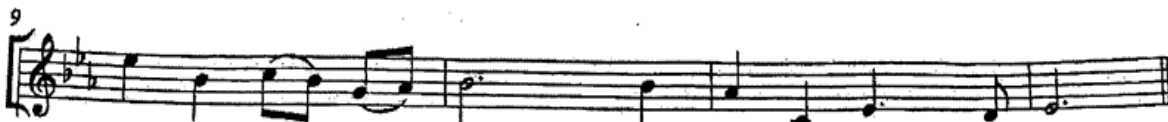
I Have a Dream



1. "I have a dream," a man once said, "where all is perfect peace; where
2. But in this world of bitter strife the dream can often fade; re -
3. Firece per - se - cu - tion, war, and hate are rag - ing ev - ery - where; God
4. So dream the dreams and sing the songs, but nev - er be con - tent; for
5. Lord, give us vi - sion, make us strong, help us to do your will; don't



men and wom - en, black and white, stand hand in hand, and all u - nite in
 al - i - ty seems dark as night, we catch but glimps - es of the light Christ
 calls us now to pay the price through strug - gles and through sac - ri - fice of
 thoughts and words don't ease the pain: un - less there's ac - tion, all is vain; faith
 let us rest un - til we see your love through-out hu - man - i - ty u -



free - dom and in love, in free - dom and in love."
 sheds on hu - man - kind, Christ sheds on hu - man - kind.
 stand - ing for the right, of stand - ing for the right.
 proves it - self in deeds, faith proves it - self in deeds.
 nit - ing us in peace, u - nit - ing us in peace.

Congregation: Unison

WORDS: Pamela J. Pettitt
 MUSIC: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry
 Words © Pam Pettitt

REPTON
 5c.566

Black Lives Matter

Unison

1 Black lives mat-ter. Black lives mat-ter,
 2 Young lives mat-ter. Young lives mat-ter,
 3 Our lives mat-ter. Our lives mat-ter,
 4 All lives mat-ter. All live mat-ter,

so pre-cious to our God and to us all.
 too much to waste their lives in - side a jail.
 for we can take some part in end-ing strife.
 re - gard-less what we've done or who we are.

Let us end the slaugh - ter of our sons and daugh - ters.
 Let us change our sys - tems. Let us o - pen pris - ons.
 Stand - ing ground and shar - ing with a ho - ly dar - ing,
 Are God's peo - ple will - ing to help stop the kill - ing?

As Christ-ians, seek - ing jus - tice is our call.
 The stakes are high; God, guide us lest we fail.
 we pledge our-selves to serve the cause of life.
 God, guide us; be our com-pass and our star.

WORDS: Ruth Duck
 MUSIC: Robert A. Harris
 www.hmc.com Music © 2015 Hope Publishing Company

1111 N 11th Ave E, Duluth, MN 55805-1517
Sunday Worship Services at 8:30am and 10:30am
Church office is open 9am to 3pm Monday through Thursday

Email: office@peaceucc.org

Facebook: peace.church.duluth

Twitter: @PeaceDuluth

Rev. James Mitulski, Interim Pastor
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Nathan Holst, Faith Formation
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Jim Pospisil, Music Director
jim@peaceucc.org

All Are Welcome at Peace Church!

Visitors: Feel free to pick up a welcome bag in the entryway.
We invite everyone to sign our friendship pads (found in the pews).
Anyone can request a nametag by leaving a note in the office.
If you have already requested a nametag, look for it in the rack in the narthex.

Masking is required at all times in the building in any public spaces.

CALENDAR

Attendance Last Week: 183 (includes livestream views)

Sunday, January 16: MLK Sunday

8:30am: Worship service with Holy Communion

9:30am: Adult Forum—The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

10:30am: Worship Service, sermon by Pastor Jim

4:00pm: A virtual community reading of King’s Letter from Birmingham Jail.

This will be a Facebook Live Video (no Facebook account is required).

Go to <https://duluthnaacp.org/mlk> for the link.

Monday, January 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

8:45am: General Mills-sponsored virtual event will feature a keynote speech by St. Paul native, CNN legal analyst and former federal prosecutor Laura Coates, musical performance by community youth choir KNOWN MPLS, and the recognition of local community change makers (www.MLKBreakfast.com).

11am: NAACP-sponsored virtual rally will feature a documentary produced by Jeremy Gardner of DanSan Creatives on the theme of “Dr. King’s Words into Action: Black Empowerment Across the Generations.” More information on www.duluthnaacp.org.

Wednesday, January 19: Inquirer's Class (part 2)

If you are not yet a member of Peace Church and are interested in learning more about us and becoming a member, you are invited to join us for part two of our Inquirer's Class on Wednesday evening, January 19, at 7pm. Contact the church office at 218-724-3637 if you are interested in attending.

Saturday, January 22: 9:30am–Noon, Strategic Planning Retreat on Zoom. This meeting will be for the **Coordinating Council and Council-appointed committees** (Finance, HR, Nominating). (**Note:** Given the circumstances of Covid and the evolving understandings of the work Peace Church needs to do in planning for 2022, our Leadership Retreat has been divided into two parts. The second retreat is scheduled for January 29.)

Sunday, January 23: Jesus' Inaugural Sermon

Worship at 8:30am and 10:30am. Sermon by Nathan Holst.

9:30am: Adult Forum—UCC as a pro-choice church and anniversary of Roe v. Wade

11:45am: Join us for a continuing discussion of our budget, pledge drive, income enhancement, expense management strategies, and the unique demands of the upcoming fiscal year. Bring your creativity, ideas, questions, and comments. If you haven't pledged yet, please make your pledge today.

Saturday, January 29 (in person): Talk, Listen, Pray. Join us at 9:30am. Because it's been a difficult year in our Peace Community, Interim Pastor Jim Mitulski is making room for us to Talk, Listen, and Pray together. Join the final conversation on January 29 (in person). No reservations are required, except if child care would help make your attendance easier. (Contact Nathan Holst for a child care reservation no later than Wednesday, January 26.)

Saturday, January 29: Peace Church Artist's Cabaret, 7pm, featuring vocalist Mark Hakes, cellist Byron Klimek, flutist Melanie Sever, pianist Wendy Durrwachter, Buzz Munns, and others! A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the Afghan Resettlement Fund.

Sunday, January 30: Covenant Sunday

Worship service at 8:30am (Taizé) and 10:30am. Sermon by Rev. Charlotte Frantz.

Annual Congregational Meeting following the 10:30 worship service, to approve our 2022 budget.

February is Black History Month. All-Church Intergenerational Read: *March*, a graphic novel by John Lewis.

Saturday, February 19: 9:30am-Noon, Strategic Planning Retreat for Ministry Teams and those interested in joining or forming a Team. More information will be available in February.

Excerpts from the *Letter from Birmingham City Jail* by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

III

You may well ask, "Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches, etc.? Isn't negotiation a better path?" You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue...

... My friends, I must say to you that we have not made a single gain in civil rights without legal and nonviolent pressure. Lamentably, it is a historical fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily. Individuals may see the moral light and voluntarily give up their unjust posture; but as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups tend to be more immoral than individuals.

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly I have yet to engage in a direct action campaign that was "well timed" in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "wait" has almost always meant "Never." As one of our distinguished jurists once said "Justice too long delayed is justice denied."

VI

I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens' Council or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods"; who paternistically feels he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.

X

In spite of my shattered dreams, I came to Birmingham with the hope that the white religious leadership of this community would see the justice of our cause and with deep moral concern would serve as the channel through which our just grievances could reach the power structure. But again I have been disappointed.

I have heard numerous southern religious leaders admonish their worshippers to comply with a desegregation decision because it is the *law*, but I have longed to hear white ministers declare "Follow this decree because integration is morally *right* and because the Negro is your brother." In the midst of blatant injustices inflicted upon the Negro I have watched white churchmen stand on the sideline and mouth pious irrelevancies and sanctimonious trivialities. In the midst of a mighty struggle to rid our nation of racial and economic injustice I have heard many ministers say, "Those are social issues with which the Gospel has no real concern," and I have watched many churches commit themselves to a completely other worldly religion which made a strange unbiblical distinction between body and soul, between the sacred and the secular...