THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | JANUARY 15, 2023 - 9:00 & 11:00 AM

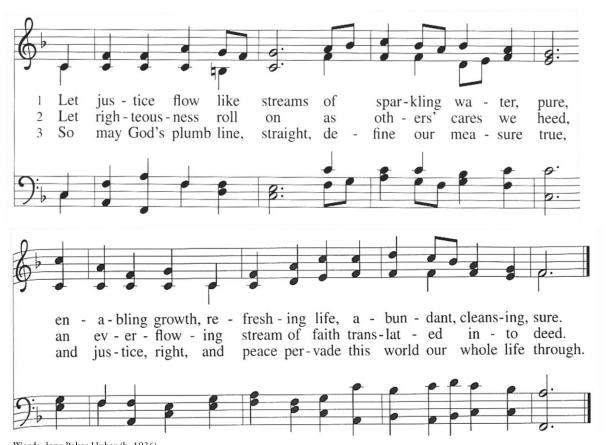
PRELUDE

"Retrospection" - Florence Price (1883-1953)

Born in 1883, Florence Price was a composer, pianist, and organist who became well known as the first African-American woman to have her work played by a major symphony orchestra. Her substantial body of work includes over 300 pieces, many of which were found in her abandoned summer home in 2009.

Please stand as the bell sounds.

HYMN IN PROCESSION



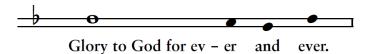
Words: Jane Paker Huber (b. 1936) Music: Aaron Williams (1731-1776)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant intones

Blessed be God, who liberates us from bondage and sets us free.

The People respond



SONG OF PRAISE



The Choir sings the Ndebele verse alone, and then with the Congregation for the second verse in English.

Siya thandaza Always we pray Siya nikela Always we give Siya dumisa Always we bless Thina Always Wijalo... Njalo...

Music: Ndebele, Zimbabwe: Arr. by Patrick Matskienziri

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LESSON seated Genesis 37:17b-20

So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

- I will remember the works of God, * and call to mind your wonders of old time.
- I will meditate on all your acts * and ponder your mighty deeds.
- Your way, O God, is holy; * who is so great a god as our God?
- You are the God who works wonders * and have declared your power among the peoples.
- By your strength you have redeemed your people, * the children of Jacob and Joseph.
- The waters saw you, O God; the waters saw you and trembled; * the very depths were shaken.
- The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; * your arrows flashed to and fro;
- The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; * the earth trembled and shook.
- Your way was in the sea, and your paths in the great waters, * yet your footsteps were not seen.
- You led your people like a flock * by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Anglican Chant: David Hurd

David Hurd is a prominent African-American composer, organist, and choral director in the Anglican tradition, currently serving at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Manhattan. He has held prominent positions at General Theological Seminary and Trinity Wall Street. His work is well-represented in the Hymnal 1982, and is frequently sung at St. Paul's.

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

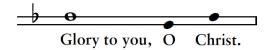
GOSPEL HYMN standing; all turn toward the Gospel as it is brought among the People



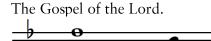
Words: Music:

John Oxenham (1852-1941), alt McKee, Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and harm. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



Jesus said "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 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. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you." "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Rowena Kemp Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Affirmation of Faith

The Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Our version of the baptismal promises this week is taken from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Commitment Card" for the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights.

Will you meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus?

I will, with God's help.

Will you remember always that the non-violent movement seeks justice and reconciliation, not victory?

I will, with God's help.

Will you walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love?

I will, with God's help.

Will you pray daily to be used by God in order that all persons might be free?

I will, with God's help.

Will you sacrifice personal wishes in order that all persons might be free?

I will, with God's help.

Will you observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to perform regular service for others and for the world?

I will, with God's help.

Will you refrain from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health?

I will, with God's help.

COMMISSIONING OF THE SACRED GROUND CIRCLES

Dear People of God, Christ calls us to be a people of reconciliation, serving a world in need. As followers of Christ, we stand alongside God's children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation. This work involves risking who we have been for the sake of who God is calling us to be, moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ in one another. We are all called to the work and ministry of God's restorative justice and reconciliation.

Will you now persevere in prayer and fellowship in these circles of study and sharing? I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to see Christ in all persons, both with whom you agree and disagree? I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to mend what is broken by human sin and greed?

I will, with God's help.

Will you work toward dismantling the sin of abuse of power?

I will, with God's help.

In the name of God and of this Church, I commission you to live into becoming Beloved Community, in these circles of Sacred Ground, in your lives, in your community, and in the world. **Amen**.

The Celebrant commissions the congregation, saying

Will all you who witness these promises support these persons through prayer, and consider your own call to reconciliation and healing in the world?

We will, with God's help

The Celebrant gives this charge to all gathered

May God make us all brave. May God root us in our own and others' absolute belovedness. May God grant us a vision for beloved community and lead us with care and boldness on the sacred path toward that dream, we pray. **Amen.**

Circle members:

Donna Booth Alan Booth Susan Cole Diane Drozd Joyce Generoso Fran O'Gorman Ann Russell Lisa Thomas Amy Wade Cecil Wade Mary Verel Sandy Bria (facilitator)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led at the 11:00am service by the DeSilva-Hargrove family — Aviah, Lera, Jonathan, Nikkya, and Dinushka

We are grateful, O God, for those whose lives inspire our own.

We pray that we may be more like them.

Help us strive to be true more than popular, and brave more than famous.

Make us yearn for true greatness in our midst—for those who build beloved community with all their hearts and all their might.

Help us to follow leaders who lead from love, and not the false leaders who lead from fear.

Give us the grace to discern true leadership among us, and within us; help us to become those who lead in our own place and time.

Let the spirit of Christ be alive in us all, to teach us the meaning of love.

And grant that we may be ready, like your servant Martin Luther King, Jr., to pay any price in the service of your kingdom.

The Celebrant concludes

Almighty God, you have created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS seated

Giving to St. Paul's

The work and mission of St. Paul's is fully supported by the generous contributions of its members and friends.

You can make a one-time offering or a sustaining gift to St. Paul's by visiting stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or text to give at 855-934-1074 For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.



Thank you for your support!

God has work for us to do

Mark Miller (b. 1958)

'Til all the jails are empty and all the bellies filled; 'til no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled:

God has work for us to do, God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done, and all things are made new, God has work for us, work for us to do!

'Til age and race and gender no longer separate; 'til pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate. God has work for us to do...

By praying through our doing, and singing though we fear, by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God's harvest near. God has work for us to do...

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

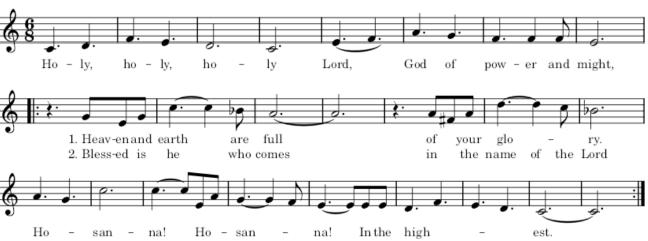


Words: William Whitla (b. 1934) Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



O God of tender compassion, you created us for love and called us to live in community. But we divided ourselves against ourselves, and we despised your image in one another. We thank you for raising up faithful prophets throughout the ages, who have called us to do justice and to love mercy. We thank you for the witness of the many martyrs known to us and for the innumerable ones who are written in the book of life. With these and with all the hosts of heaven, we give praise to you as together we sing:



Setting: Grayson Warren Brown

God of liberating love, in the fullness of time you gave your son Jesus to walk among us. Loving his enemies and befriending the despised, he demonstrated your love for all, and called us to follow his Way of Love.

On the night that he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: "This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come in glory.

Now called to Christ's vision of beloved community, we stand before you empowered by your Spirit, with blessed Martin, blessed Rosa, blessed Ella, blessed Medgar, blessed Malcolm, blessed Pauli, and all your saints unnumbered, who are even now leading us more fully into the light of your liberating love, through Christ who gathers us all.

By whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:



THE COMMUNION

The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to communion, saying

Bread broken for the life of the world.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request, grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups. Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.

All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.



Words: African-American spiritual

Music: Let Us Break Bread, Afro-American spiritual; arr. and harm. David Hurd (b. 1950)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION standing

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the liberating Light of Christ be enkindled in your hearts. And the Blessing of God: Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, Abiding Spirit, be upon you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**





Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Music: Lift Every Voice, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world to share the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Festal March, Florence Price (1883-1953)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER - THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN - 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org
The Rev. Daniel Simons Priest in Charge
The Rev. Louise Kalemkerian Priest Associate
The Rev. Paul Carling Priest Associate
Will Doreza Interim Director of Music
Josh Ehlebracht Interim Organist
Marsha Dunn Parish Administrator

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