


# Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Morning Prayer**
**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**
**January 17, 2021**

Pastor Elaine Hewes, preaching
Connie Mayo, Music Director

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**Prelude:** *Oh, Freedom* Negro Spiritual

*A brief silence*

*Leader:* This morning we remember dreams and dreamers.
Joseph, Jesus' father, dreamt about uncertainty.
*Congregation:* **We, too, know the uncertainty of dreaming.**
**May we, like Joseph, respond in faith.**
*Leader:* Mary, Jesus' mother, dreamt about a child, a new beginning.
*Congregation:* **We, too, dream of new beginnings.**
**May we, like Mary, respond in hope.**
*Leader:* The Magi dreamt about going home by a different way.
*Congregation:* **We, too, know how dreams can alter our plans.**
**May we, like the Magi, respond with our feet.**
*Leader:* There have been many dreams, many dreamers. Today we remember Martin Luther King Jr. who dreamed of justice rolling down like the waters, of a beloved community where all people find kinship, belonging, dignity and love.

*Congregation:* **We, too, dream of justice and your beloved community.**
**May we, like Dr. King, respond with our voices, with our lives and in your love.**
*Leader:* Awaken us to our dreams, Holy God — and to your voice speaking from within them.
*Congregation:* **Awaken us to your world, Holy God —**
**and to the places where our greatest joy can meet the world's greatest need.**
Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, USA

## Confession of Sin

*Leader:* Let us confess our sins to God.
*Congregation:* **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 you 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.**
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader:* Brothers and Sisters, by the power of God's Spirit we are always called into newness of life in Christ Jesus. Whatever has previously bound us in fear and kept us from living fully into God's kingdom of justice and peace, this is a new day. In the mercy of God we have been set free to be God's people in the world. Let us live in the light of this good news.
*Congregation:* **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** *Take my hand Precious Lord (see back of bulletin)*

## The Invitatory

*Leader:* Christ has shown forth his glory:
*Congregation:* **O come, let us worship.**
*Leader:* Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
*Congregation:* **as it was in the beginning, is now,**
**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Lesson: Exodus 3: 7-12**
Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."
But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."
*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 15**
O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

**Gospel: John 1:35-51**
*Leader:* The Gospel according to John
*Congregation:* **Praise to you, O Christ**
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).
The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree

before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."
*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** Pastor Elaine Hewes

*A brief silence*

**Affirmation**

*Leader:* We are called to proclaim the truth. Let us believe:
It is not true that the world and its people are doomed to die and be lost.
*Congregation:* **This is true: Jesus has come that they may have life in all its abundance.**

*Leader:* It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction.
*Congregation:* **This is true: the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, the poor are hearing the good news.**

*Leader:* It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever.
*Congregation:* **This is true: death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore.**

*Leader:* It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world.
*Congregation:* **This is true: the Lord whom we seek will suddenly come to the temple; and the Lord is like a refiner's fire.**

*Leader:* It is not true that our dreams of liberation, of human dignity, are not meant for this earth and for this history.
*Congregation:* **This is true: it is already time for us to wake from sleep, for the night is far gone and the day is at hand.**

Allen Boesak

*Leader:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
*Congregation:* **And also with you.**

*You are invited to exchange the peace*

## The Prayers

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.
*Congregation:* **And also with you.**
*Leader:* Let us pray.

**Lord's Prayer Chant** *(see back of bulletin)*

**The Collect of the Day**

*Leader:* 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 strive to secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

*Congregation:* **Amen.**

God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folk whose names were never in the news, but are recorded in your book of life,
**We give you thanks, O God.**

Especially this day we thank you for Martin Luther King, Jr., for his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace, and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises,
**We give you thanks, O God.**

For the memory of Martin Luther King, Sr. and Mrs. King, Coretta Scott King and the King family; for Medgar Evers, Rosa Parks, James Meredith, Malcolm X, and countless others who stood in the front lines and marched, integrated schools and restaurants, or sat in buses and refused to move,
**We give you thanks, O God.**

For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny of oppression, who were beaten, raped, or lynched; and for the nameless multitudes today whose lives are stunted and cut short by economic and social structures of brutality.
**We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

For children, women, and men of every race who are denied education, health care, jobs, housing, and hope in our land,
**We grieve and promise to work for justice, O God.**

*Leader:* Please offer your own prayers at this time

*All are invited to add their own prayers here.*

*Leader:* We remember those on our prayer list:

Peter Brown, Ken Clauson, Pär Kettis, Persis Williams, Tracey Hair, Nick, Seth,
Stewart, Judi Simanton Stabler, the family of Linda Shepard, Phoibe DeJesus,
Heather Callister, Charlie Egerton, Mary Ann Shaw, Pam Neff, Matt Crocker,
Lindsay Bowker, Pastor Edward Dufresne, Pat & Tony Stoneburner, Julie, Mimi Gerstell
Al Chapman, Geoff Place, Nancy Boothby, Ana, Nancy Stearns, Marcia Scott
Isabelle Hulsey, Jennifer Hulsey, Michelle Price

*Leader:* Hear our prayers, and bless us, living God.
Hold the secret longings of our hearts in the mystery of your love.
Shine your light on us that our lives may be a light to the world.

*Leader:* When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

*Congregation:* **To find the lost,**
**To heal the broken,**
**To feed the hungry,**
**To release the prisoner,**
**To rebuild the nations,**
**To bring peace among brothers,**
**To make music in the heart.**

*The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman

**Benediction**

**Sending Hymn** *This little light of mine (Verses 1, 2 in back of bulletin)*
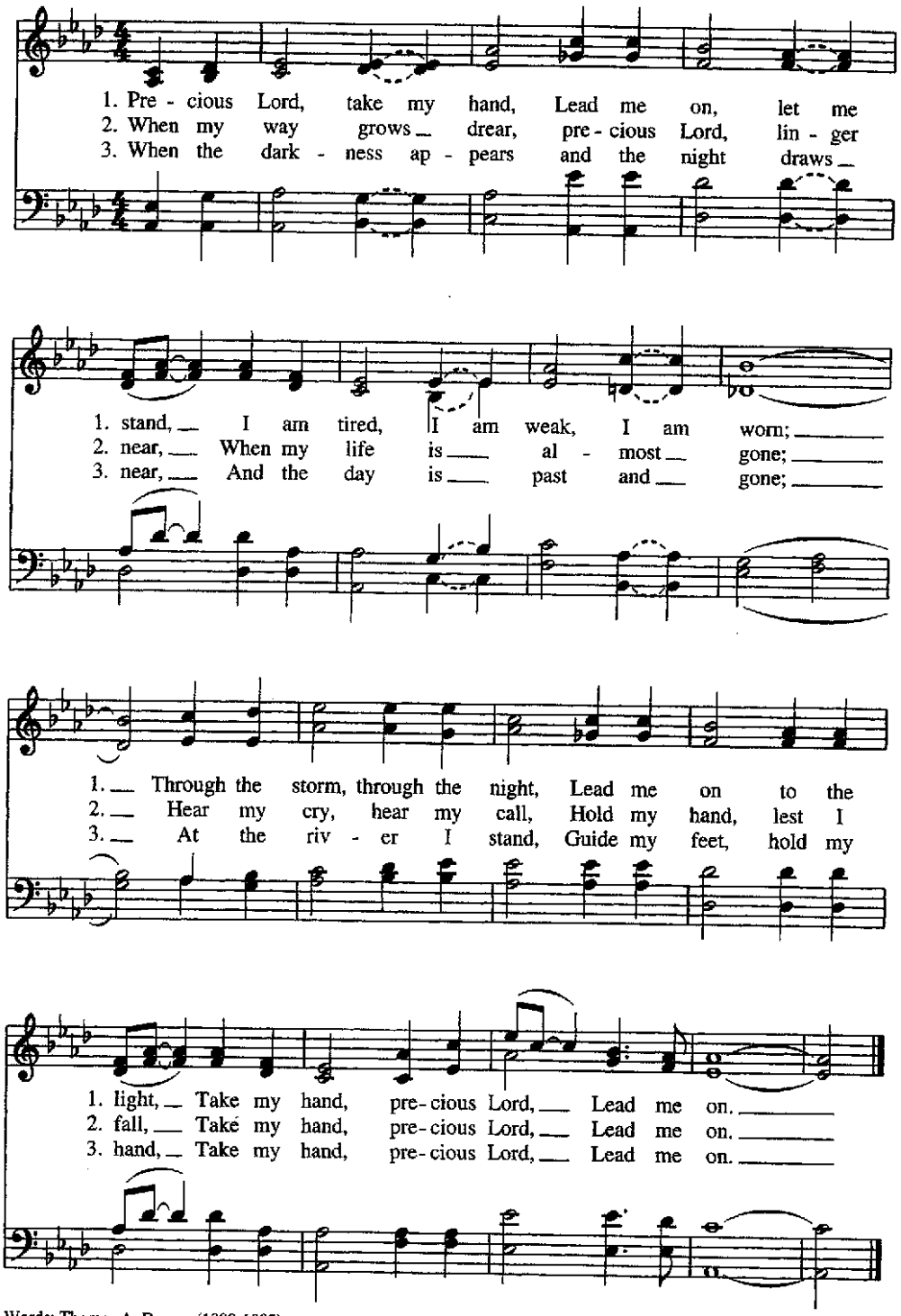
**Postlude:** *He's got the whole world in his hands* Negro Spiritual

**Dismissal**

**Announcements**

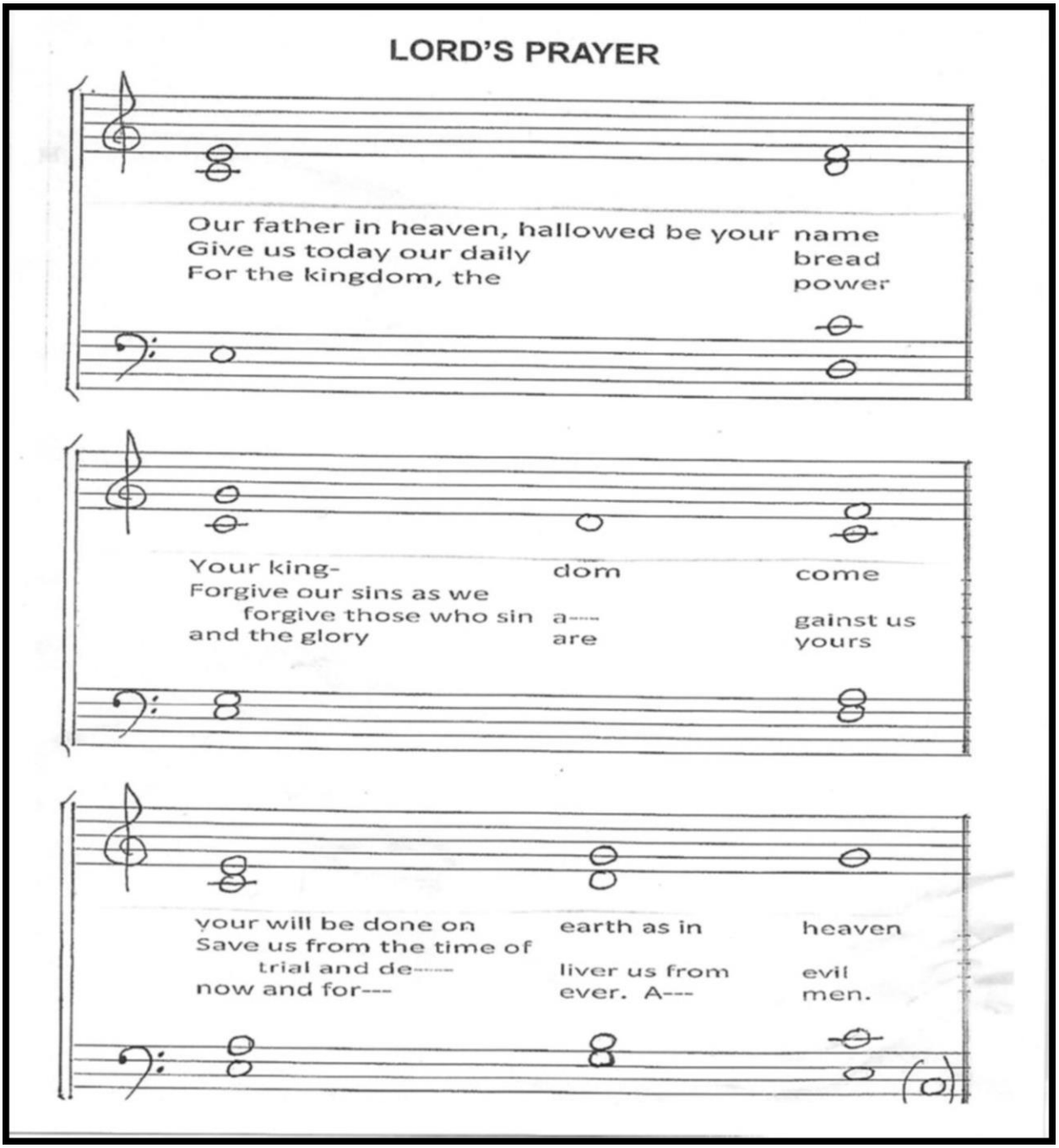
*You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour*

# Take My Hand, Precious Lord
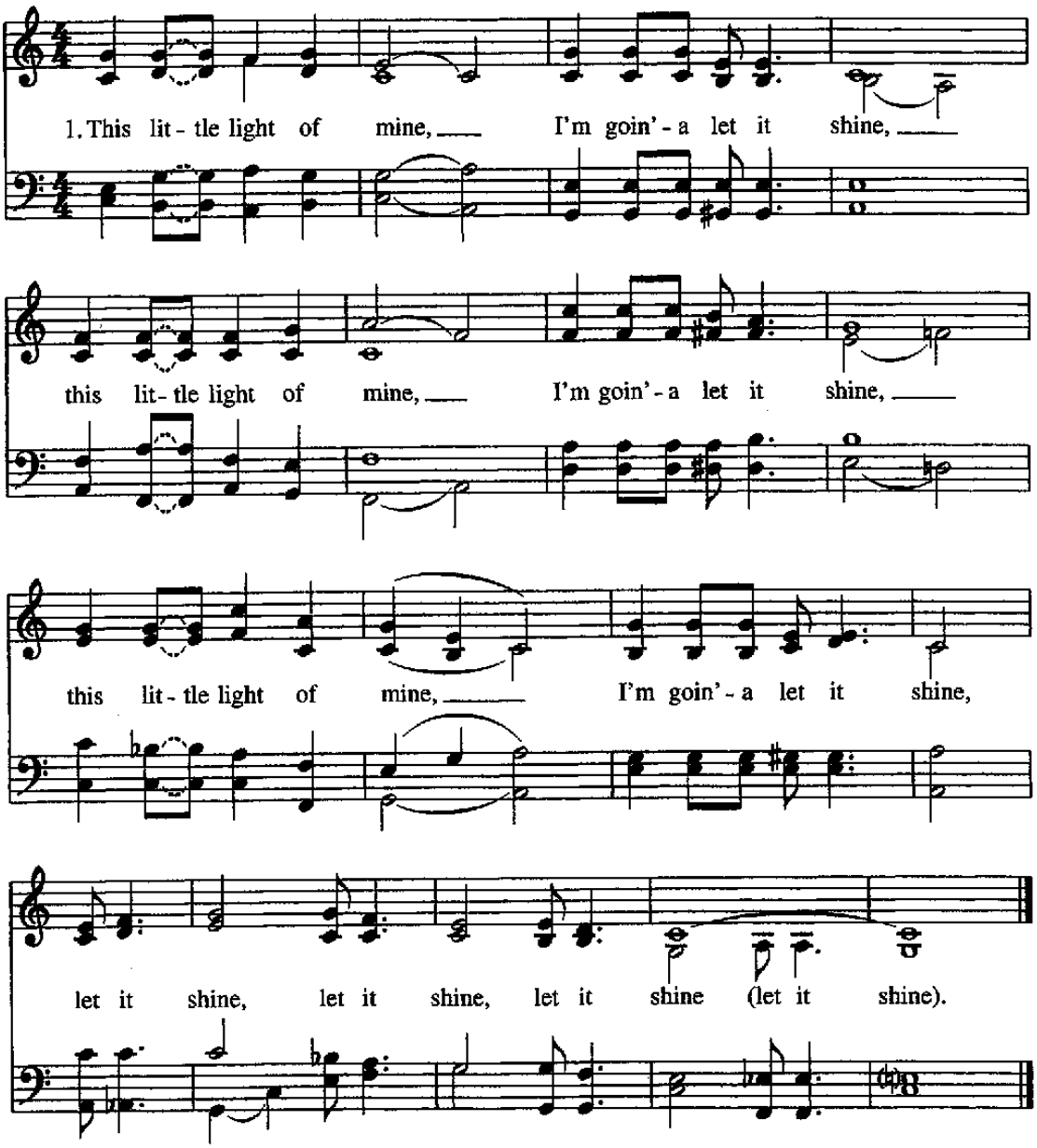



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Music: Thomas A. Dorsey; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)
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## LORD'S PRAYER



## This Little Light of Mine 160




2. Everywhere I go... 3. All through the night...

Words: Traditional
Music: Negro Spiritual; adapt. William Farley Smith (b. 1941)
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