



Worship with Communion

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on January 17
go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!

♪ **We Grieve the Many Thousands**

We grieve the many thousands — yet we can't understand;
we cannot grasp how many have died throughout this land.
We cannot see their faces or hear the stories told
of all the ways they blessed us — the young ones and the old.

O God, we grieve the struggle of those who died alone —
so far from friends and neighbors, from all they'd ever known.
We grieve for precious people who could not say goodbye;
we weep for those, now mourning, who sit alone and cry.

O God, we grieve for millions who now are unemployed
who cannot feed their families — whose hope has been destroyed.
We grieve that needed workers must worry for their health
while some with lives of privilege stay home and build their wealth.

O God of love and mercy, we cry to you, "How long?"
In troubled times remind us: Your love is ever strong.
Now as we grieve the suffering, Lord, show us how to be
A healing, loving presence in each community.

Words: ©2020 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *AURELIA*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. **AMEN!**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from
you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the

inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **AMEN!**

♪ **Gloria, Gloria**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia alleluia!

Words: Trad, adapt Taizé Community Music: Jacques Berthier ©1979 Les Presses de Taizé/GIA Publ. All rights reserved.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.

People **AMEN!**

Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr

Celebrant Since 1986, the United States celebrates the birthday of civil rights leader and activist, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on the third Monday of January. Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us pray.

People **Gracious God, you create us and love us; you make us to live together in a community. We thank you for Martin Luther King, Jr and all your children who have been filled with your vision for our lives and who have worked to bring your vision into reality. Fill us with your vision. Guide us to live by your vision, working to build the beloved community where everyone is welcomed, all are valued, privilege is no more, and all your children know wholeness and well-being. 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, 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!**

A Litany of Repentance

Celebrant Dear people of God, our history is marred by oppression, by the enslavement of those who differ from us, and by the forces of racism that attack human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives and our cultures, in small and great ways, in things done and things left undone. As followers of Christ, we reject racism and the oppression of other human beings. In building Christ's beloved community, we must strive to love all people, respect all people, and work for the good of all people. We must stand alongside God's children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation. In the assurance of our forgiveness, let us humbly repent before God our participation in racism, our privilege based on racism, and our perpetuation of racism.

Celebrant God the Father, you freed your people from slavery in Egypt, yet the legacy of slavery deforms our lives today. Have mercy on us.

People **God the Son, you prayed that all would be united in your love and service, yet the divisions among us rend your body. Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant God the Holy Spirit, you inspire us to live peaceably with all, yet the stain of genocide and internment mars our striving for justice. Have mercy on us.

People **We have harmed one another and the earth through negligence, greed, and self-interest.**

Celebrant We have failed to condemn discrimination that leads to unrest.

People **We have decried violence, while overlooking inequity and frustration from which it rises.**

Celebrant We have practiced injustice for economic gain and have oppressed others to make a false peace.

People **We have sought comfort in advantage for ourselves at the cost of injustice for others.**

Celebrant We have welcomed solace over conflict and ignored the cries of those harmed by our comfort.

People **We have grasped for this world's goods, and been arrogant toward those who have little.**

- Celebrant* We have not shared the good things we have been given, and blamed the poor for their poverty.
- People* **We have been fearful and distrustful of those who are different from us.**
- Celebrant* We have divided ourselves from others, and refused to listen to or believe their experience.
- People* **We have been indifferent to the pain and suffering of our sisters and brothers.**
- Celebrant* We have held in contempt those who need our help, and not loved them with our whole hearts.
- People* **We have been self-satisfied in our privilege, and denied our oppression of others.**
- Celebrant* We have preferred order over justice, and isolation over the struggle for peace.
- People* **We have quietly held good intentions, and kept silent the message of reconciliation.**
- Celebrant* We have failed to act with courage for the sake of love.
- All* **Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**
- Celebrant* May Almighty God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day.
- All* **AMEN!**

Old Testament

Reader A reading of First Samuel chapter 3, verses 1 through 10.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I

did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Unison Reading

Reader Let us read in unison Psalm 139, verses 1 through 5 and 12 through 17.

All Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them. How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

New Testament

Reader A reading of First Corinthians chapter 6, verses 12 through 20.

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

John 1. 43-51

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Commissioning for the Ministry of Justice and Reconciliation

Celebrant Today we will take time to rededicate ourselves to Christian service, especially in the ministry of justice and reconciliation. Since we started our journey in July, we've learned that Becoming Beloved Community is not a one-time program or project, but an ongoing way of being formed and re-formed by God's love. Our repentance and commissioning are ongoing, as well.

Dear People of God, we stand in the shadow of the prophets crying out for justice and peace. God calls us to be a people of reconciliation, serving a world in need. Courageous women and men have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out for the least and the lowest. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love, moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another. We are all called to the work and ministry of social justice and reconciliation.

Celebrant Will you persevere in prayer and fellowship?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim the good news of reconciliation in both word and deed?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive to see Christ in all persons, both with whom you agree and disagree?

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant In the name of God and of this Church, I commission you to stand up, speak out, and live into the reign of Christ our Savior.

All AMEN!

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN!

Prayers of the People

Reader Sisters and brothers, our baptismal vows call us to compassion and mercy on behalf of those in need. We offer our prayers for the church and the world.

People God of light and life, our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith.

- Reader* We pray for the entire Body of Christ, especially for the clergy and people of The Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Fond du Lac, and St James Episcopal Church.
- People* **Flame of abundant love, be our joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world.**
- Reader* We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith.
- People* **Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach, and nurture your disciples.**
- Reader* We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch.
- People* **Comforter of the suffering, warm our hands to loving service.**
- Reader* We pray for the world, especially where there is trouble and suffering, far away or nearby.
- People* **Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation.**
- Reader* We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plant life, and waters around us.
- People* **Star blaze of glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation.**
- Reader* We lift up the prayers of our church family. God of radiant light, your love illumines our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask.
- People* **Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us.**
- Reader* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
- People* **Jesus, God with us, hear our prayer.**
- Reader* Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our

intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All AMEN!

Reader Let us confess our sins to God.

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. AMEN!

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People AMEN!

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

All O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!

Celebrant To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

All AMEN!

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ God, May Your Justice Roll Down

God, may your justice roll down like the waters you send here,
And may your righteousness flow like a stream without end here!
Praying this prayer, many have struggled and dared,
All for the world you intend here.

Christ, we give thanks for past saints who renewed education,
Freed the oppressed, brought your healing and fought segregation.
Savior and Lord, great were the risks they endured,
Bearing your hope and salvation.

We as your church now remember these stories of others
And pray your Spirit will send us, as your sons and daughters.
Show us the way we, too, can serve you each day
Till justice rolls down like waters.

Text: Copyright © 2001 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *LOBE DEN HERREN*, 1665.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

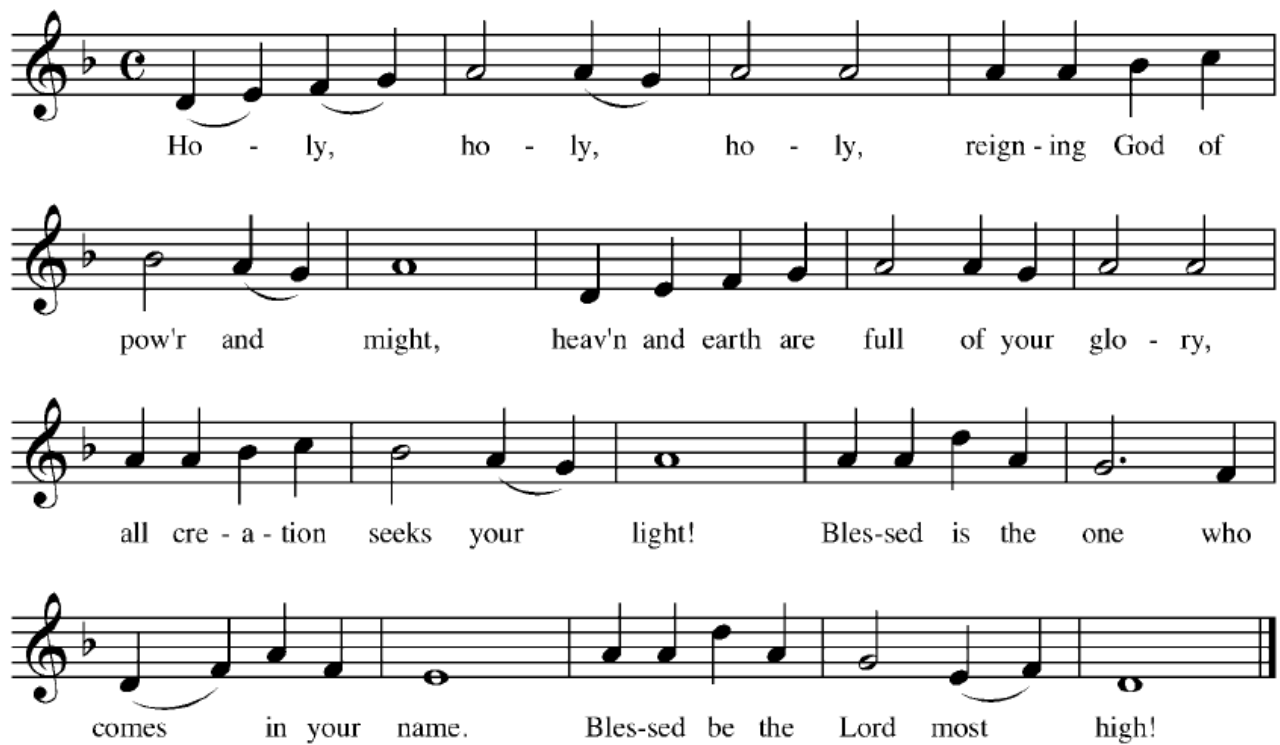
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Setting: PICARDY, French carol; arr Kimberly Bracken Long.

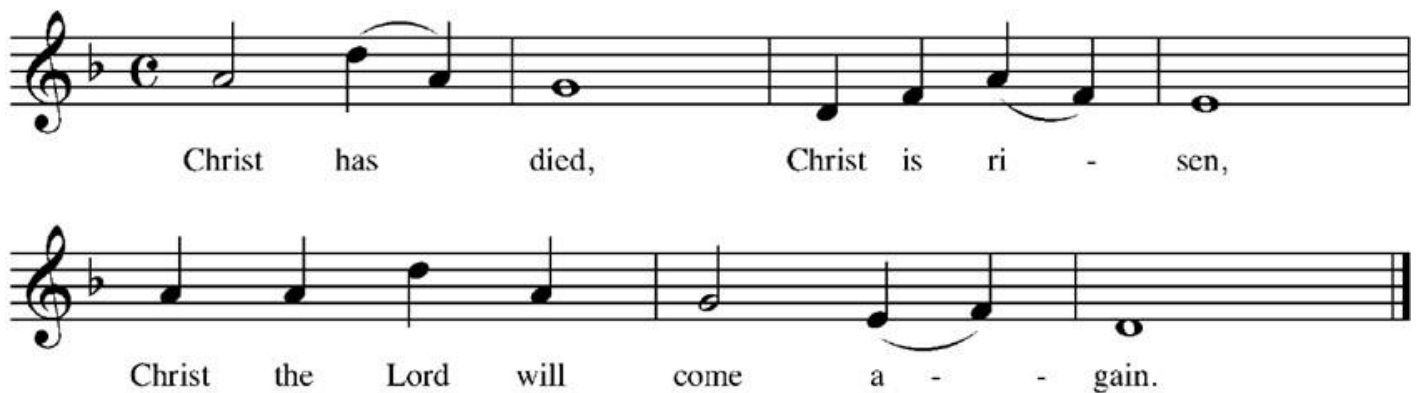
Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent

him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take... eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

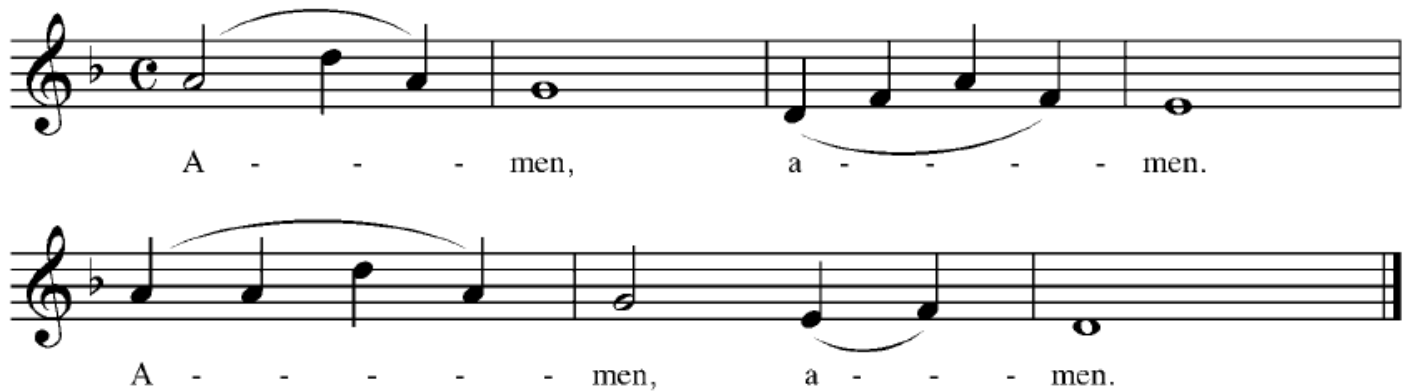
Great is the mystery of faith:



Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray to you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
All 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN!

Breaking Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

♪ We Will Take What You Offer John L. Bell © 1998, WGRG, Iona Community. All rights reserved.



Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

People In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN!

Blessing for Epiphany Season

Celebrant May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

Celebrant May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

Celebrant May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People Alleluia! AMEN!

♪ Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing



1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the



ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry
way; Thou who hast by thy might Led us in - to the



skies, Let it re-sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we



taught us; Sing a song full of the
wa - tered; We have come, tread - ing our
met thee; Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
path through the blood of the slaugh - tered; Out from the
wine of the world, we for - get thee; Shad - owed be -



ris - ing sun Of our new day be - gun,
gloom - y past, Till now we stand at last
neath thy hand, May we for - ev - er stand,



Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Words: James W. Johnson, 1899. Music: *ANTHEM*, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1900.

Sending

Celebrant Go forth bearing the Light of Christ to the world! Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.

There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate.

January's special offering supports Painting Pathways Clubhouse—please label accordingly.

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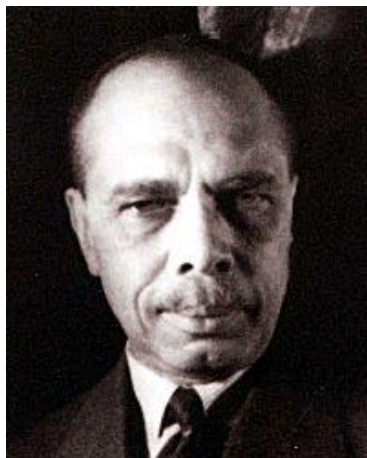
The African American National Anthem

The hymn “Lift Every Voice and Sing” is often referred to as the 'national anthem for African Americans'. It places emphasis on the history of people of color which includes many triumphs and struggles. This great song is known across the world, but the history behind the song's creation and first performance is often unknown. Therefore, read further and reflect on the meaning of this hymn for people of color.

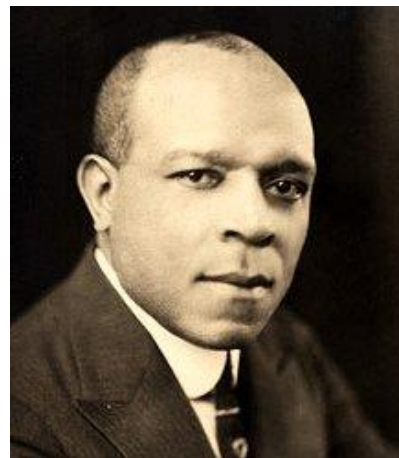
James Weldon Johnson was born in 1871 in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a poet, lyricist, lawyer, government official, and a lover of the spirituals. He was the first African American to be admitted to the Florida bar in 1897. He and his younger brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), a musician, wrote musical comedies and operas. But their best known composition is “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” This song was written as a special tribute to honor almost forty years of freedom for people of color in America. It was first performed by a children's choir as a church program on February 12, 1900.



James Weldon Johnson went on to become United States Consul to Venezuela in 1906 and to Nicaragua in 1909. In 1913, he became the editor of the New York Age. He was also very active in the NAACP. Other writings of Johnson include God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse in 1927. Black Manhattan in 1930, and Negro Spirituals in 1925. Johnson died in 1938. The United States Postal Service issued a 22 cents commemorative stamp (the eleventh in the Black Heritage Series) in his honor in 1988.



James W. Johnson
1871-1938



J. Rosamond Johnson
1873-1954

Written by Dr. Mary A. Love for the National Council of Churches © 1995

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY WEEKEND

Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the greatest American civil rights leaders, was born on January 15, 1929 and was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Since 1986, the United States has celebrated King's birthday as a national holiday on the third Monday of January. The Episcopal Church also commemorates the day of his death on the liturgical calendar each year.

Holy Women, Holy Men (Church Publishing, 2010) explains that "King lived in constant danger: his home was dynamited, he was almost fatally stabbed, and he was harassed by death threats. He was even jailed 30 times; but through it all he was sustained by his deep faith. In 1957, he received, late at night, a vicious telephone threat. Alone in his kitchen he wept and prayed. He relates that he heard the Lord speaking to him and saying, 'Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness, stand up for justice,' and promising never to leave him alone – 'No, never alone.' King refers to his vision as his 'Mountain-top Experience.'"

On April 3, 1968, the day before he was murdered, King delivered a speech in Memphis, Tennessee, popularly referred to as "I've Been to the Mountaintop." The following are excerpts from that speech:

"We've got to stay together and maintain unity. You know, whenever Pharaoh wanted to prolong the period of slavery in Egypt, he had a favorite, favorite formula for doing it. What was that? He kept the slaves fighting among themselves. But whenever the slaves get together, something happens in Pharaoh's court, and he cannot hold the slaves in slavery. When the slaves get together, that's the beginning of getting out of slavery. Now let us maintain unity. ...

"We're going to march again, and we've got to march again, in order to put the issue where it is supposed to be – and force everybody to see that there are thirteen hundred of God's children here suffering, sometimes going hungry, going through dark and dreary nights wondering how this thing is going to come out. That's the issue. And we've got to say to the nation: We know how it's coming out. For when people get caught up with that which is right and they are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory. ...

"We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't really matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."



*Martin Luther King, Jr., at a freedom rally,
Washington Temple Church,
1962, World Telegram & Sun photo by O.
Fernandez*