

# Welcome to St James Episcopal Church...

## *We're glad that you chose to worship with us today!*

COVID guidelines-- out of love for others we'll continue to err on the side of caution.

- Please wear masks for all indoor church activities, including worship. **Masks are required when in the building for all over age 2** (or those with health restrictions). You may remove your mask briefly while receiving Communion. Clergy and Readers may remove masks when speaking.
- Please greet each other and share your love through verbal or other contact-less expressions.
- Please use the handicap-accessible restroom outside the sanctuary.
- Communion is provided for those who would like to consume bread and/or wine as directed. You may participate in spiritual communion if you prefer to not receive either physical element. (*This is sacramentally appropriate any time receiving bread and/or wine is not a possibility for any reason. The bread and wine are the outward and visible signs of the inward and spiritual grace in the communion sacrament*)

This Worship service will be live-streamed. If you have privacy concerns for yourself or your child(ren), please sit in the back left of the Sanctuary (the area closest to the Chapel). Nobody will be identifiably visible during Communion. Our videos may be viewed online live or any time: [go.mysjec.com/youtube](https://go.mysjec.com/youtube)



## 10AM Worship with Communion – January 16, 2022

### Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr



#### Today's Worship leadership includes...

<i>Ministers</i>	Members of the Congregation
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Richard Hall
<i>Readers</i>	1-Glenn Davidowich
	2-Skip Cole
	3-Karleen Cole
<i>Rector (Pastor)</i>	The Rev'd Diane M Murray (Amma Diane)
<i>Worship Coordinator</i>	Tony Karl

**We are an inclusive community of faith that welcomes and celebrates diversity in age, race, nation of origin, citizenship status, gender identity, sexual orientation, social status, political view, background, ability level, marital status, and anything else that makes us unique. Whatever your reason for coming, we are glad you are here!**

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 St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220  
 mysjec.com — info@mysjec.com — Church Office: 920.684.8256  
 Amma Diane: 920.860.5152 (*cell/text*) — dianemarie.murray@gmail.com  
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If you would like to know more about the life, mission, or ministries of St James Episcopal Church, please talk to any member of our Vestry (church council):

*Rector (Pastor):* The Rev'd Diane M Murray      *Wardens:* Chris Dee Eggert-Rosenthal & Mary Green  
*Vestrypersons:* Nick Doszkewycz, Richard Hall, & Kim Kaufmann  
*Clerk:* Tony Karl      *Treasurer:* Linda Molitor  
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**All the words you will need are in this bulletin:** Text that the people say is prefaced with "People" or "All" and is in a **bold font**. All song lyrics are also in this bulletin.

**Wi-Fi access:** Look for our networks beginning with **CBCI-77B0** and enter password **build7443guitar**; we encourage you to share pictures and posts on social media.

**Worship/Liturgy Sources:** Our worship is based on the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP--the red hardcover book in the pew rack), the *Book of Occasional Services*, the *Enriching Our Worship series*—the primary liturgical resources authorized by General Convention of The Episcopal Church—supplemented by occasional other resources. You may find additional prayers in the BCP on pages 832-834 helpful for personal devotion before, during, and after worship (especially prayers 64-69 and 57-61). If you'd like a BCP for your own use at home, the church can provide one for you—please talk to Amma Diane.

**Children:** Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Activity bags are available in the back of the church. A changing station is available in the restroom in the atrium just outside the sanctuary.

**Hearing Loop:** Our Hearing Loop system enables people with hearing loss to better hear sounds through our sound system. If you can set your hearing aid to a T or M/T setting, audio from our sound system will be received directly by your device (70% of aids have this feature). If your aid does not have this option, or you do not wear a hearing aid, there are a few portable headsets available in the back of the church.



**Please share your prayer requests with us:** All are invited to share their prayer requests so that the entire congregation may join in lifting up your needs and thanksgivings. Please add requests to the Prayers of the People clipboard (you can simply use first names on requests... God knows our needs). If you'd like a prayer lifted up for multiple weeks, please fill out a prayer request slip found at the back of the church.

**We worship with our bodies:** You'll notice that some of us may sit, stand, and kneel at various points in the service. Some of us may make the sign of the cross or bow now and then. Some may clap, raise their hands, or tap their feet. All of these movements are traditions from various parts of our Christian heritage—none are required, none are frowned upon. All are welcome to express whatever movements they might find meaningful in worship. Some instructions are printed throughout this bulletin—you may also observe what others do. None of these movements are a requirement: if you prefer not to use them, don't worry about it—God doesn't.

**Restrooms/Layout/Accessibility:** A handicapped-accessible restroom is located in the atrium just outside the sanctuary (next to the elevator.) Another restroom is located on the lower level. The atrium gives access to the lower level and upper level by stairs or elevator. The worship space and chapel are located on the upper level. The offices, fellowship hall, library, and classrooms are located on the lower level and marked by signs.

## Welcome!

*All who are able, please stand.*

### ♪ **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** *May be sung as a round*

**[Renew #64]**

**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* God 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!**

*Please be seated.*

## **Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr**

*Celebrant* Since 1986, the United States celebrates the birthday of civil rights leader and activist, the Rev'd 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!**

## First Lesson

*Reader 1* A reading of Isaiah chapter 62, verses 1 through 5.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

*Reader 1* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Unison Reading

*Reader 1* Let us read in unison Psalm 36, verses 5 through 10.

*All* Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you save both man and beast, O Lord. How priceless is your love, O God! your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings. They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, and your favor to those who are true of heart.

## New Testament

*Reader 2* A reading of First Corinthians chapter 12, verses 1 through 11.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

*Reader 2* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*All who are able, please stand.*

## **Gospel**

John 2. 1-11

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

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

*Celebrant* On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon**

*Amma Diane*

### **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!**



*All who are able, please stand.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*Reader 3* 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 3* 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 3* 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 3* 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 3* 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 3* 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 3* We lift up the prayers of our church family, including those on our prayer lists and those we remember now silently or aloud... *The people offer additional prayers at this time.* ...God of radiant light, your love

illuminates 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 3* 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 3* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*You may remain standing or kneel for the confession prayer.*

**All** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. **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!**

*Please be seated. Those with birthdays or anniversaries, please stand at this time. If you would like a prayer for healing, travel, or any other needs, please let Amma Diane know.*

*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.

*We share God's love with others from a distance with verbal greetings, waving, peace sign, etc.*

## 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](http://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.

*All who are able, please stand.*

## ♪ 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.

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## 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.

## 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign - ing God of  
pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,  
all cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bles-sed is the one who  
comes in your name. Bles-sed be the Lord most high!

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

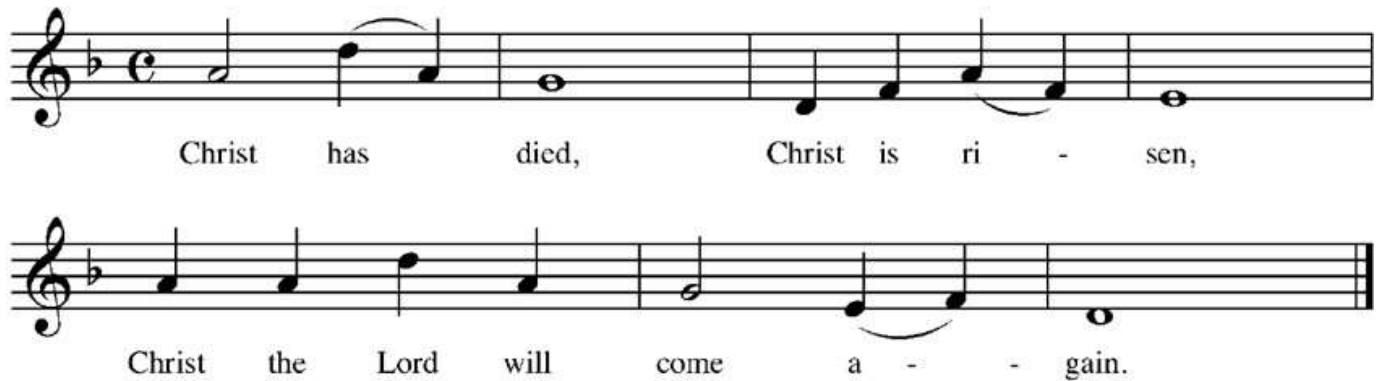
*Celebrant* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate 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 in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for 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.

*At this time, the Celebrant will extend the invitation to communion to all present and give instructions as needed. Visitors are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.*

*All who are able, please stand.*

*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**

*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 come, 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!

*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](http://mySJEC.com/donate).*

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

**Thank you for celebrating with us today! Please join us after worship in the lower level Fellowship Hall for casual conversations and sharing (due to COVID we are currently not having food/drink).**

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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*