

**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
A Celebration of the Life and Ministry of  
The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
January 18, 2026  
10:00 AM**

**Celebrant:** The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

**Homilist:** The Rev. Dawrell Rich, Ph.D

**Assisting:** The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans and The Rev. Gerald Collins

**Vergers:** Karen Ragland and Eugene Golson

**Music Ministry:** St. Thomas Chancel Choir and Church Farm School Choir

\*\*\*\*\*

**Order of Service**

**A Meditation Prayer**

Verger Karen Ragland

**The Prelude**

Susan Ben

Church Farm School Choir

**The Opening Hymn- “Blessed Martin”**

**Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) # 46**

**1) Holy God, you raised up prophets; Praise and honor do we sing,  
For your faithful, humble servant, Doctor Martin Luther King. [Refrain]**

**Refrain: Blessed Martin, pastor, prophet, you the mountain top did see;  
Blessed Martin, holy martyr; Pray that we may all be free.**

**2) Moral conscience of his nation, Reconciling black and white,  
Dreamed he of a just society, we must carry on his fight. [Refrain]**

**3) Teacher of Christ like nonviolence to the outcast, poor and meek;  
Greater weapon ‘against oppression is to turn the other cheek. [Refrain]**

**4) Preacher of Christ’s love for neighbor, he won Nobel’s prize for peace;  
Peoples, beat your swords to plough-shares, wars ‘twix nations all shall cease. [Refrain]**

**5) Champion of oppressed humanity suff’ring throughout all the world;  
He offered pride and dignity let Christ’s banner be unfurled! [Refrain]**

**6) So, when felled by sniper’s bullet, under heavens overcast,  
He could cry, “Thank God Almighty, I am free, I’m free at last!” [Refrain]**

**A Word of Welcome**

The Celebrant

**The Opening Acclamation**

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

**The People:** And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. AMEN

**The Collect for Purity**

**The 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. AMEN

**The Gloria in excelsis (Sung)**

**The Celebrant and People:**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you**

**are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN**

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

#### **The Collect of the Day**

**The Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

#### **The Celebrant: 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 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, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

#### **The First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7**

**A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.**

Dr. Derek Griffith

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength-- he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

**The Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**The People: Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 40:1-12**

Bobby Johnson

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

I waited patiently upon the LORD; \*  
he stooped to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; \*  
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God; \*  
many shall see, and stand in awe,  
and put their trust in the LORD.

Happy are they who trust in the LORD! \*  
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!  
how great your wonders and your plans for us! \*  
there is none who can be compared with you.

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! \*  
**but they are more than I can count.**

In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure \*  
**(you have given me ears to hear you);**

Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, \*  
**and so I said, "Behold, I come."**

In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: \*  
**'I love to do your will, O my God;**  
**your law is deep in my heart.'**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; \*  
**behold, I did not restrain my lips;**  
**and that, O LORD, you know.**

Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; \*  
**I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.**

You are the LORD;  
do not withhold your compassion from me; \*  
**let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.**

**The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**  
**A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth.**

Kelly Jones  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**The Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**The People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Gradual Hymn - "We Shall Not Be Moved"**

**1) We shall not, we shall not be moved.**

**We shall not, we shall not be moved.**

**Just like a tree that's standing by the water, We shall not be moved.**

**2) We are fighting for our freedom; we shall not be moved.**

**We are fighting for our freedom; we shall not be moved.**

**Just like a tree that's standing by the water, We shall not be moved.**

**3) We are young and old together; we shall not be moved.**

**We are young and old together; we shall not be moved.**

**Just like a tree that's standing by the water, We shall not be moved.**

**4) Black and white together, we shall not be moved.**

**Black and white together, we shall not be moved.**

**Just like a tree that's standing by the water, We shall not be moved.**

**The Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42**

Fr. Evans

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

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

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

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 Reader:** The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**The Homily Hymn-“We Shall Overcome”**

**LEVAS # 227**

**1) We shall overcome. We shall overcome.**

We shall overcome someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe.

We shall overcome some day.

**2) We'll walk hand in hand. We'll walk hand in hand.**

We'll walk hand in hand, today.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe.

We'll walk hand in hand, today.

**3) God is on our side. God is on our side.**

God is on our side, today.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe.

God is on our side, today.

**4) We are not afraid. We are not afraid.**

We are not afraid today.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe.

We are not afraid today.

**5) We shall live in peace. We shall live in peace.**

We shall live in peace, someday.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

We shall live in peace someday.

**The Homily**

The Rev. Dawrell Rich, Ph.D

**Excerpts from Dr. King's “I Have a Dream Speech”**

David Fernandez-Lizano and Ethan Hamilton  
Church Farm School

**A Musical Selection – “Precious Lord”**

Renard Golden

**The Call to Christian Discipleship**

**The Prayers of the People – Form IV**

**BCP pg. 388**

R. Seth Williams and The Rev. William Gipson,  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

**Seth:** Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Rev. Gipson:** For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Daniel, our Bishop, Martini our Rector, Daren our associate to the Rector, Gerald and Wil our Associate Priests, Karen and Eugene our Verger, Paul our Associate Minister, and for all bishops and other ministers.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Seth:** For the Church Farm School community and its leadership, especially Troy, Head of School and Dawrell, School Chaplain, and all the members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Rev. Gipson:** Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Seth:** We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Rev. Gipson:** Give the leaders of this nation wisdom, compassion, and humility, and grant to its people unity, courage, and the capacity to dream as did Blessed Martin.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Seth:** Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Rev. Gipson:** For those incarcerated: Guide them Lord in all they do with your Grace and Love and grant them your continual help. In all their problems, your guidance; in all their dangers, your protection; and in all their sorrows, your peace. And we remember and pray for those who may have been affected by their actions.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Seth:** For those who may be experiencing loneliness or sadness following the death of a loved one, grant them your presence and comfort.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Rev. Gipson:** Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Seth:** Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Rev. Gipson:** We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Seth:** Prince of Peace, help us.

**God of Grace save us.**

**Rev. Gipson:** In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thomas, Absalom, Martin, and all of the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**To thee, Lord our God.**

**The Concluding Collect**

The Celebrant

**The Confession**

**BCP 360**

The Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**The Celebrant and The People:**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and 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**

**The Absolution**

The Celebrant

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

**The Peace**

**The Celebrant:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

**The Holy Eucharist**

**The Offertory Sentence and Offering**

**Oblation Bearers**

Garry Jones and Dr. Reuben Mills, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

**Offer your gift now via text: Text “AECST” to 73256  
or use the QR Code found on page 1**

**The Offertory Musical Selection**

Church Farm School Choir

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

**The Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

**The Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**The People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**The Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**The People:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*Celebrant adds a short Proper Preface*)

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### **The Sanctus (Sung)**

**The Celebrant and the People:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Celebrant:** Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### **The Memorial Acclamation (Sung)**

**The Celebrant and People:**

**Jesus Christ has died.**

**Jesus Christ is risen.**

**Jesus Christ will come again.**

**The Celebrant:** We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 forever. **AMEN**

### **The Lord's Prayer (Sung)**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray.

#### **The Celebrant and People:**

**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**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

**The Celebrant:** Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**The People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

### **The Agnus Dei (Sung)**

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**The People: Have mercy upon us.**

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**The People: Have mercy upon us.**

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**The People: Grant us thy peace.**

### **The Prayer of Humble Access**

**Let us pray: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN**

**The 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 Distribution of Communion**

(All baptized persons who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to receive the Holy Sacrament. If you only wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest.)

### **The Post-Communion Prayer**

#### **The Celebrant and People:**

**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**

### **Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors**

**The Celebrant:** In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

**The People:** We who are many are one body, and we all share on bread and one cup.

### **The Announcements**

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

### **Greetings and Remarks**

Dr. Troy Baker, Church Farm Head of School

### **The Recognition of Visitors and Guests**

### **The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel**

### **A Musical Tribute to The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

## The Final Blessing

The Celebrant

### The Closing Hymn - “We’ll Understand It Better”

1) We are often tossed and driv’n on the restless sea of time,  
Somber skies and howling tempest oft succeed a bright sunshine;  
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,  
We will understand it better by and by.

**Chorus:** By and by when the morning comes,  
when the saints of God are gathered home,  
we’ll tell the story how we’re overcome;  
For we’ll understand it better by and by.

2) We are often destitute of the things that life demands,  
want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;  
We are trusting in the Lord, and according to His word,  
We will understand it better by and by.

3) Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand,  
All the ways that God would lead us to that blessed promised land;  
But He guides us with His eye and we’ll follow till we die,  
for we’ll understand it better by and by.

4) Temptations hidden snares often take us unawares,  
and our hearts are made to bleed for many a thoughtless word or deed;  
and we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,  
but we’ll understand it better by and by.

## The Dismissal

### The Postlude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

**The End of Mass:** This is a reminder that the Mass (service) ends following the closing hymn and dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the service before its conclusion. This request is being made to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We would like to thank the members of Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity Inc. for hosting today's Chat and Chew following the service, in Anderson Hall.**