

ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP

Sunday, January 24, 2021
St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC
Epiphany

Reflection

**"THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE
DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."**

Song of Reflection

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing
by James Weldon Johnson
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Lift ev'ry voice and sing, 'til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Greeting, Prayer of Submission, and an Opportunity for Giving
Rev. Lee Gray

DO JUSTICE LOVE MERCY WALK HUMBLY

Hymn

The Voice of God is Calling
LANCASHIRE

The voice of God is calling it summons in our day;
Isaiah heard in Zion, and we now hear God say:
"Whom shall I send to succor my people in their need?
Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?

We heed, O Lord, your summons, and answer: Here are we!
Send us upon your errand, let us your servants be.
Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour;
but you can use our weakness to magnify your power.

Reflection

**"IF THERE IS NO STRUGGLE, THERE IS NO PROGRESS."
-FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Deuteronomy 30:11-20
Bert Green, reader

Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe. See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

This is the written word of God for the people of God, thanks be to God.

Song of Response

Take Time to Be Holy

HOLINESS

Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children,
help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing
God's blessing to seek.

Reflection

**I HAVE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS THAT WHEN ONE'S
MIND IS MADE UP THIS DIMINISHES FEAR.**

-ROSA PARKS

Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Luke 10:25-37

Pauline Carter, reader

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

This is the written word of God for the people of God, thanks be to God.

Song of Response

Who Is My Neighbor?

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

LOBE DEN HERREN

"Who is my neighbor?" A lawyer asked Jesus to test him.
So Jesus told him a story to answer his question:
Lonely the way, lonely the traveler one day, robbers attacked him and left him.
First down the road came a priest who just chose to ignore him.
Next came a Levite who wouldn't do anything for him.
Then one despised, hated in everyone's eyes,
Knelt down to heal and restore him.
Tending the wounds of the man, the Samaritan labored.
He was the one with compassion, the one in God's favor.
Not by a creed, but by responding to need, he proved to be the good neighbor.

The Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Allison Benfield

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

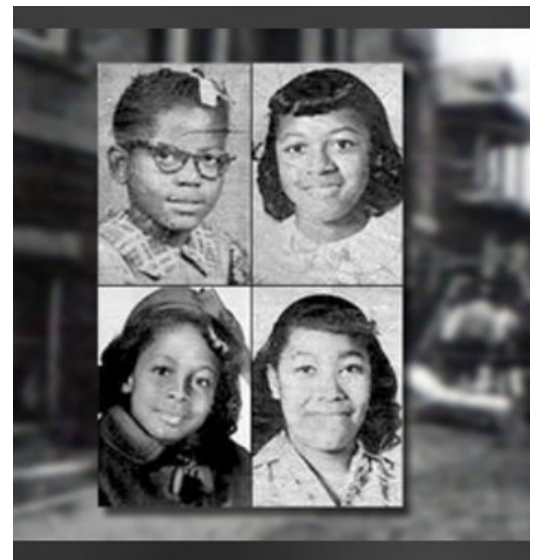
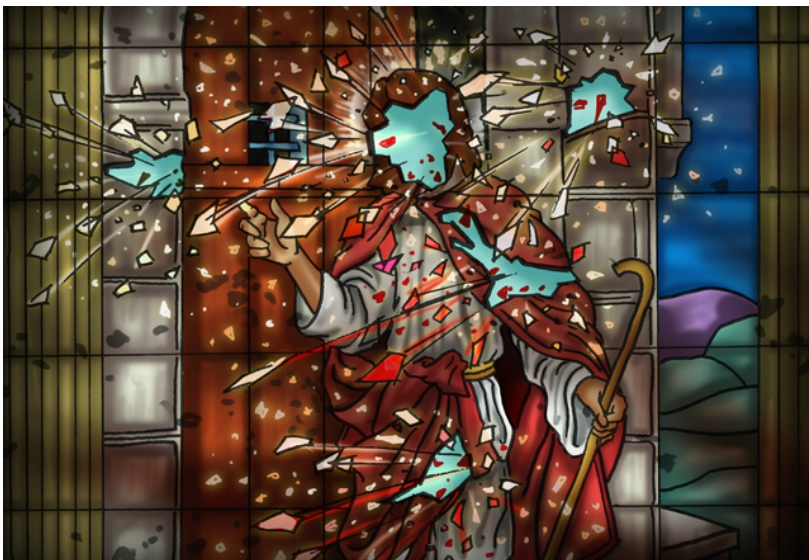
Reflection

**“TODAY WE KNOW WITH CERTAINTY THAT SEGREGATION
IS DEAD. THE ONLY QUESTION REMAINING IS HOW
COSTLY WILL BE THE FUNERAL.”
-REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Message

The Face of Christ Was Blown Out

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD



Hymn

We Shall Overcome Only When We All Are Free

We shall overcome only when sing together,
Take our stand as one and face the stormy weather.
Deep in our hearts, let us agree
We shall overcome, only when we all are free.

Look out on the world with eyes that see each struggle,
Lend a helping hand to neighbors who're in trouble.
Deep in our hearts, let us agree,
We shall overcome, only when we all are free.

Christ the Lord of Love shines glorious like a beacon,
giving light to all who have the eyes to see him
God's love is vast, great as the sea.
We shall be one, only when we all are free.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

DO JUSTICE LOVE MERCY WALK HUMBLY

Postlude

Rondeau

J. Noel Lance