

**WORSHIPPING GOD**

January 17, 2021

**Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance**

Chiming of the Hour.....Kim Miller

*Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God,  
alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle.....Kim Miller

Preparing for Worship.....Samantha Quailes

*“When God began to create the heavens and the earth—the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters. God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. God named the light Day and the darkness Night. There was evening and there was morning: the first day.” (Genesis 1)*

Prelude.....In Praise of God.....Genevan Psalter, 1551 Edition

*Joan John, organ*

Welcome.....Dan Koger

Invitation to Worship (from Psalm 148).....Stephanie Horton

The voice of the Lord is powerful and full of majesty.

**May the Lord bless us with God’s peace!**

The voice of the Lord proclaimed Jesus as God’s beloved.

**In our own baptisms, we are claimed as ones whom God dearly loves.**

Hymn..... Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Robin Duncan Family*

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.  
Let us walk with our brother in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

*Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

Prayer of the Day – Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr. ....Dan Koger and Kim Miller  
*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.  
(Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)*

God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness.

**And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

We remember how you spoke into the darkness and created light.

**And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

We remember the ways you have delivered your people through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time, right up until this present moment.

**And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

You have comforted us through the middle passage, racism, segregation, stripped identities and unjust laws.

**And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically loved.

**And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues, colors, ethnicities and cultures, and respect the content of their character.

**We gather today remembering your presence among us and the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors. Amen.**

Visual Reflection – “A Prayer for the Church” (by Martin Luther King, Jr.)\_

Gospel Lesson from Mark 1.....Sarah Turner

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, “One stronger than I am is coming after me. I’m not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Pastoral Prayer.....Kim Miller

Meditation .....It’s Just the Beginning.....Dan Koger

Hymn.....Lift Every Voice and Sing

*Robin Duncan Family*

*Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening 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 till victory is won.*

Blessing.....Dan Koger

Go into the world knowing that you are led by the light that is Christ.  
May the love of the Creator go before you.  
May the life of the Redeemer be within you.  
May the joy of the Sustainer shine through you.  
This day and evermore. Amen.

Postlude.....Grand Processional.....Christoph Williband Gluck

*Joan John, Organ*

Opportunity for Giving