



Sunday January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge



THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

I Must Tell Jesus

Shackley

Welcome & Opening Greeting (Please remain seated.)

We Gather.

One: God of all people, all cultures, and creeds, be with each of us.

All: We give you thanks today for civil rights leaders Dr. King, his wife Coretta, and Rosa Parks. We thank you for Canadian civil rights activists Viola Desmond, Lincoln Alexander, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and many others who have seen the other side of the mountain, and have invited us to seek and practise social justice here and now.

One: Holy One, you create each of us uniquely different. We are born with various distinct gifts that make us all loved and worthy in your sight. Help us to question and put aside our prejudices and suspicions of “the Other”.

All: Help us to see the best in one another, and to live in peace and harmony.

One: We confess that we often choose to believe that which culture tells us to believe, we embrace harmful thoughts and words rather than your healing Word which calls us to hopeful unity in diversity.

All: Help us to have curiosity, wonder, and to show care, compassion, respect and thanksgiving where there may be fear of differences.

One: Yes, we are different but the same, as we acknowledge we are all part of your one Body.

All: God of all Creation, your grace treats us equally, come into our minds and bodies, and your body the Church, making us, and renewing us all your blessed creation through your grace. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Land Acknowledgement

Together we say

The Township of Uxbridge is situated on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Chippewa (Anishinaabe) people. We acknowledge that these lands are covered under the Williams Treaties and are home to many Indigenous communities. We honour, recognize, and respect this nation and Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we now live, work, and play. (Township of Uxbridge)

Litany for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday:

One: Our Mother-Father God has made us to be One Body with many members.

All: United and uniting. This is our calling.

One: God calls us to share our diverse gifts activated by the one and same Spirit.

All: United and uniting. This is our redemption.

One: God longs for us to be united in love and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

All: United and uniting. This is our worship.

One: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship to our Holy God, who challenges us and calls us to *create the Beloved Community*. (www.ucc.org/epiphany2)

The Gloria

Glory to God

CP 702

Collect of the Day

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 Jr., 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 for ever. **Amen.** (<https://lectionarypage.net>)

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Reader: A Reading from the First Book of Samuel

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.’ Then the LORD said to Samuel, ‘See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.’ Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ He said, ‘Here I am.’ Eli said, ‘What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.’ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, ‘It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.’ As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD. (NSRVA)

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139 Refrain



Gradual Alleluia

CP 405

*“Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.”*

Holy Gospel John 1:43-51

Reader: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, “Come, follow me.” (Philip’s hometown was Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.) Philip went and found Nathanael and told him, “We’ve found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It’s *Jesus*, Joseph’s son, the one from Nazareth!” Nathanael said, “Nazareth? You’ve got to be kidding.” But Philip said, “Come, see for yourself.” When Jesus saw him coming he said, “There’s a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body.” Nathanael said, “Where did you get that idea? You don’t know me.” Jesus answered, “One day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree.” Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!” Jesus said, “You’ve become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven’t seen anything yet! Before this is over you’re going to see heaven open and God’s angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again.”

(The Message)

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Gradual Alleluia

CP 405

*“Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.”*

Reflection

Contemplative Pause

People: **God, we hear and receive your words of hope and encouragement and with thoughtful gladness we sing.**

Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness (vs 1)

CP 447

*“Lord we hear your word with gladness: you have spoken – we rejoice:
Words of love and life and freedom – help us make their truth our choice!
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.”*

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the [Parent], creator of heaven and earth.
The one who is full of patience, who is not afraid of silence,
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry, and who does not jostle for attention.

We believe in God the Son, Saviour of creation,
who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,
who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry,
who frequently took time alone with his patient [Parent],
who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,
who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,
whose silence overpowered their words,
who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,
sometimes arriving with obvious power,
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

We believe in one God who patiently waits for us,
and who longs for us to do the same. (<https://engageworship.org/ideas/advent-creed>)

Anthem ***Where Justice Rolls Down***

Prayers of the People

One: Compassionate God, grant that your Holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ. God of peace and grace.

All: **May we live in justice, healing and peace.**

Conclusion:

One: God of peace and grace.

All: **May we live in justice, healing and peace.**

Confession (A prayer for what we could have been) and **Absolution**

Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess **that we have not loved you with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and [dislike] our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so, as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the**

appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of a revolt against you. O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the [grace and patience] to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will.

([https://](https://guideposts.org/prayer/how-to-pray/pray-with-dr-martin-luther-king-jr)

guideposts.org/prayer/how-to-pray/pray-with-dr-martin-luther-king-jr)

Absolution – Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your faults, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

May the peace of the Christ of Justice who calls us, be with you. **And also with you!**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn - *Glory.* A YouTube clip from the film *Selma* which depicts a pivotal moment for voter rights at the height of the US Civil Rights Movement when Rev. Dr. King attempted to lead a march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery in 1965.

Prayer over the Gifts

Living God, you have revealed your Son as the Messiah. May we hear his word and follow it, and live as children of light. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

One: May God be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

One: May our hearts be opened to love.

All: **We open ourselves to life and love.**

One: Creator of all, source of all light,

All: **your unconditional love stirs within us anew.**

One: In the divine, we live and move and have our being. For all that is born of a sacred love, we give our thanks and praise.

All: **In the son Jesus, we see new possibilities, new ways of being in the world.**

One: He was moved by the plight of the poor. He made his home with the homeless and shared his table with those who could not command a seat at any meal.

In accordance with your Word, Dr. King dreamed of a world where enemies learned to love one another, where the abundance of all was shared fairly, and where love was the law of every land. He reminded us that we who work for justice will overcome.

God of our weary years, we praise you, singing:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts**
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

One: On this day, we remember what our tradition teaches: At the end of a journey, among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, said a blessing, broke it and said, ‘Take and eat this for this is the bread of life, given to sustain the people of the world. When you do it, you do it to remember me’.

All: **Let us share this bread and be strengthened to bring peace and justice to the world.**

One: Later he poured a cup of wine said a blessing and said, ‘Drink this all of you; this is the cup of life, given to sustain the people of the world Do this to remember me’.

All: **Let us share this cup in solidarity with all the peoples of the world, so that peace and justice may prevail everywhere.**

One: Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your people together from the ends of the earth into your reign here, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people of every language, race and nation may share in the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, all honour and glory, creator of all.

All: **Amen.**

Jesus Prayer

A Prayer for those being lorded over.

Our father and mother who are in Ramallah,
How can this allowed? This is not your Kingdom – Come on!
Will you let this be done in Tel Aviv as it is in Hebron? Don’t give us this daily humiliation. But give us our passes as we forgive those who take our passes from us and keep us waiting in lines behind walls, for hours without cause.
Lead us not into acting towards them as they act towards us, but deliver us home before dark and from evil for evil. We refuse to be enemies. For Zion is not the Kingdom.
The powerful do not have the Glory. Not now or ever,
Let it be. (Rhidian Brook, 30th October 2022)

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

Agnus Dei

CP 745

Communion

During Communion

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees,
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Prayer after Communion

God of glory, you nourish us with bread from heaven. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that through us your light may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sending forth & Blessing

One: We do not doubt that through him and beyond him, you, holy God of the prophets, are still pledged to justice and peace and liberty for all. We remember Martin in gratitude...and chagrin. And we pledge, amid our stressed ambiguities, to dream as he did, to walk the walk, and to talk the talk of your coming kin-dom. We pledge, so sure that your truth will not stop its march until your will is one on earth as it is in heaven.

“Martin Luther King” by Walter Brueggemann. Prayers for a Privileged People (2008:Abingdon Press)

All: Amen.

One: God grant all over the world a way

All: in which all people live together in harmony

One: Holy One grant a way

All: in which every nation will allow justice to run down like waters

One: Spirit of Love grant a way

All: in which [people] will do justly, love mercy and walk humbly before you and each other

One: Breath of life we live in hope for that day

All: when all people will join together, stretch out their arms and proclaim, “Free at last! Free at last! Great God Almighty, we are free at last!”

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome; we shall overcome;
we shall overcome some day.

Refrain: O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand someday.

Refrain: O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace someday.

Refrain: O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

We are not afraid; we are not afraid;
we are not afraid today.

Refrain: O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

God will see us through; God will see us through;
God will see us through today.

Refrain: O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Go Down

Moses

Please remain behind for a brief Special Vestry. It will be brief as we inform you of a possible change to our audit process.

**We apologise that there will be no coffee, cookies and conversation today.
Thank you!**

**The flowers at the altar are placed to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Freda Watson
by Fred, Catharine and their families**