

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ*

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

January 14, 2018

10:30 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Any of our worship leaders or ushers will be able to help with your questions. If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know...yet.

*Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices
before the service of Worship begins.*

*A nursery with capable, nurturing staff is available in
the basement of the Meeting House.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR and GREETING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Chris Jeffers, piano

African-American Spiritual

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Amos 5

Leader: Let us come together and seek good, not evil! Let us imagine together how to establish justice in our world.

People: **Let us worship together, strengthened in trust that God is with us. May justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

OPENING HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

No. 576

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

PLEASE BE SEATED.

CENTERING PRAYER

CONFESSION AND RESPONSE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The prophet Amos said that God hated our “solemn assemblies” and our offerings if we did not worship God every day by living love for one another. As we gather today, let us search our hearts and confess the times we have withheld love for anyone. Let us confess.

All: **Forgive us, merciful God. Forgive us as individuals when we took the easy path or the selfish path or succumbed to greed, fear, or any “-ism.” Forgive us as a society, for we lift up wealth and power as the greatest goods over compassion, sharing, and love. Give us strength of mind, body, and spirit to overcome what needs to be overcome, in our own lives and in our society. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PLEASE STAND.

Response (sung by all)

Glory Be to God

text: *Gloria patri*, 3rd century, transl.

music: Peter DuBois, 2007

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The love of God, the peace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Since in Christ we have been reconciled, let us share his peace with one another.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Reverend Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-21

NRSV: New Testament, p. 938

MUSIC

Oh, Won't You Sit Down

Joyful Noise Children's Choir

African-American Spirituals

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What A Wonderful Child

(Afterward, the children leave to attend church school.)

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. READING

Logan Singerman

(from "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution," *Testament of Hope*, p. 269)

MUSIC

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African-American Spiritual

Stewart Battle, Baritone

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

arr. Mark Miller (b. 1958)

Center Church Quartet

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. READING
(from "Letter From Birmingham City Jail," *Testament of Hope*, p. 300)

Dr. Ivan Edafiogho

MUSIC

Go Tell It On the Mountain

African-American Spiritual

Terrence French, Trumpet

Chris Jeffers, Piano

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

MISSION MOMENT: Read to Succeed

Dectora Jeffers

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

(We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)

Offertory Music

There is a Balm in Gilead

African-American Spiritual

Center Church Choir

Michelle Fiertek, Soloist

PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Hymn of Presentation

OLD HUNDREDTH

text: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heav'nly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give these gifts of money for the work of love. We give our lives for the work of love. O God, we ask you to bless all the gifts. In Jesus' name, amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:22-30

NRSV: New Testament, p. 938

MEDITATION

The Reverend Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

MUSIC

I Thank You, Jesus

No. 41

THANK YOU, JESUS

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. READING

Andre Keitt and Rev. Shelly

(From “Where Do We Go From Here?” in *Testament of Hope* pp. 251, 252)

GOING FORTH

PLEASE STAND.

CLOSING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

No. 593

LIFT EVERY VOICE

BENEDICTION

Response for Choir and Congregation

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

No. 282

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL