



Order of Worship for
July 5, 2020, 10:00am

*Welcome to Online Worship at Center Church!
We are delighted that you are here today.*

PSALM 13:1, 5

**“How long, Lord?
Will you forget me forever?
. . . But I trust in your
unfailing love.”**

CHIMES

PIANO PRELUDE: Patriotic Medley

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING IN WORSHIP

Let us center our hearts and minds for worship. Please join me in a spirit of prayer: Lord, all of creation has praised Your glory and power since the dawning sun of the first day. In the highest joy and the deepest sorrow of life, Your people have called out Your many names, forever seeking the shelter of Your mercy.

As we come before you now, our hearts full of the troubles of the world, we ask You to send Your Holy Spirit to settle in this place and in all the places where we are, together, apart. Send Your Spirit, Lord, to comfort our weary hearts and to strengthen us for the work You call us to do. In the name of Your Son, Jesus the Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN: Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing (verse 1)

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Although we do our best, we should be honest with God and with ourselves and admit that, at times, we have failed both God and God's creation:

For the things we have done and left undone,

For the things we have said and left unsaid,

For all the times we knowingly and unknowingly,

fell short of building the beloved community,

For all this we ask forgiveness through Christ Jesus, our source of grace and mercy.

Beloved, through Christ's passion, we are healed and forgiven and blessed with new life in Christ. Let us honor the Gift of Grace by working to build God's Kingdom here on Earth.

HYMN: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

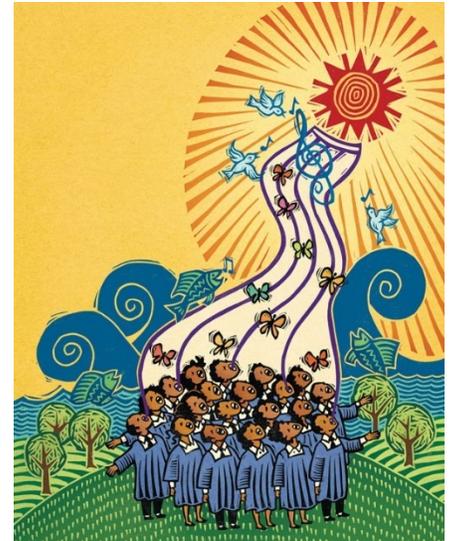


SCRIPTURE: Psalm 13:1-2 (The Message)
Psalm 22:1-5 (The Message)

SERMON (video)

HYMN: Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing, (verses 2 & 3)

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,
Till 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 hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast 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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

(“How Long, Not Long” A Responsive Prayer, based on the Speech of
Martin Luther King, Jr., March 25th, 1965, Montgomery, AL.)

We pray earnestly that our faith in the God of Justice will “transform the dark of
yesterday” into the bright dawn of tomorrow. **Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

We pray to the Lord, "How long will racism and prejudice blind us to the face of God in our brothers and sisters of every race and nation?" **How long, O Lord, we ask.**

We ask God how many more Black men and women, boys and girls must die before His Spirit of Justice fills the hearts of people all over the world. **How long, O Lord, we cry.**

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us that "truth crushed to earth will rise again." He reminded us that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." We know that faith and trust in the Lord will lift us up and show us the way.

We beg, O Lord, for Your star of hope lighten the path forward. **How long, O Lord, before we see Your Light? How long before we know Your Truth?**

How long? **Not long.**

Because "no lie can live forever." Injustice cannot survive in a world ruled by love. The love of God will overcome the cruel hate of the world.

How long? **Not long.**

How long? Not long. How long O Lord, before we see Your Kingdom come? How long, O Lord, before Your will be done?

Hear us when we earnestly and intentionally pray the Beloved Community into being, using the words our savior taught us: *Our Father, which art in Heaven...*

Amen and Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

Andre Keitt, vocalist

CALL TO ACTION

HYMN: We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome, some day
O, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome, some day.

We'll walk hand in hand, etc.



We shall all be free, etc.

We are not afraid, etc.

BENEDICTION (Borrowed from the Franciscan tradition)

May God bless you with discomfort: At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger: At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears: To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.



Our thanks to the Worship Team for creating today's service.

Go in peace!