



Henrietta United Church of Christ

1400 Lehigh Station Road, P.O. Box 430

Henrietta, NY 14467-0430

(585) 334-0030 www.henriettaucc.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jason Boyd

pastorjason@henriettaucc.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Martha Koenig Stone

associatepastor@henriettaucc.org

Church Administrator: Andrea Folan

churchadministrator@henriettaucc.org

Ministers: Everyone!

Order of Worship

10:30 AM

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
UCC Martin Luther King Sunday

January 16, 2022

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

CENTERING MUSIC FOR EPIPHANY (*in unison*)

Here in this place, the new light is streaming;
Now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in, and make us your own.
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and music by Marty Haugen (1979); Tune: Gather Us In

WELCOME!

Pastor Jason

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*one / many*)

Pastor Jason

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet one another in the spirit of Christ's love and peace by sharing messages of peace in the comments in our broadcast.

SUNG RESPONSE "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"

There's a spirit of love in this place, there's a spirit of love in this place.
You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.
There's a spirit of love in this place.
O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.
O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place.

Words and Music by Mark Miller, © 2003 Abingdon Press

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE

+CALL TO WORSHIP (*one / many*)

Pastor Jason

Our Creator God has made us to be One Body with many members.

United and uniting. This is our calling.

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

United and uniting. This is our redemption.

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

United and uniting. This is our worship.

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.

+UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Pastor Jason

O God, all people are your Beloved, across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations, genders and gender identities, and all the ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all manifestations of your image. We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.

You call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love. Let us know your presence among us now: Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.

Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr., and in Jesus' name. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN**

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
filled 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 harsh 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 people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading out 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,
God who has brought us thus far along the way;
God who by your 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 you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Words by James Weldon Johnson (1921); Tune: Lift Every Voice (1921) by J. Rosamond Johnson; Found at #593 in New Century Hymnal

+PRAYER OF RENEWAL (*one / many*)

Pastor Martha

O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community which looks to the common good; privileges all equally, and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.

And yet we reject our differences, envy each other's gifts, devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice: We allow the voices of brothers and sisters who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us to be silenced.

We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality. We foster in them a denigrating sense of nobody-ness. Lord, have mercy.

Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves in the face of their struggle for full human life.

For it is not solely hateful words and actions, but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression. Christ, have mercy.

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness: You have called us to be drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness,

Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times, to build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible, and we grow weary.

We cry, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace within us or around us.

We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression, violence and war. Lord, have mercy.

+WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE (*one / many*)

Pastor Martha

My kindred in Christ, God is at work in us and with us! God has promised: "I will not keep silent and I will not rest until the vindication of my beloved people shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch. My people shall no more be termed 'forsaken' and their land shall no more be termed 'desolate.'" We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name: "My delight is in them."

Thank you, God for delighting in us even now, for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness, for empowering our work and inviting us once again to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Martha

ANTHEM

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

by Thomas Chisholm and William Runyan, arr. Christine D. Anderson

Suzanne Milliman, handbells

Robin Bower, keyboard

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 2: 1-11

Paige Tambasco

MESSAGE

"Do Whatever He Tells You"

Pastor Jason

HYMN

"We Would Be Building"

We would be building temples still undone
O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift.
Waiting till love can raise the broken stone,
And hearts creative bridge the human rift.
We would be building, Architect Divine,
Reveal the shape of life in Your design.

Teach us to build; upon the solid rock
We set the dream that hardens into deed,
Ribbed with fine steel, both time and change to mock,
The unfailing purpose of our noblest creed.
Teach us to build; O Maker, lend us sight
To see the towers gleaming in the light.

O keep us building, Savior; may our hands
Ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
When to our ears there come divine commands
And all the pride of sinful will departs.
We build with you; O grand enduring worth
Until your promised realm shall come on Earth.

Words by Paul Deitz (1935); Tune: Finlandia, by Jean Sibelius (1899)

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE

INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING

Pastor Jason

*** SONG OF PRAISE FOR MLK SUNDAY (*in unison*)**

Praise God, who lifts each voice to sing,
Praise God, whose grace lets freedom ring,
Praise God, whose love keeps hope alive.
Praise God, whose Word makes justice thrive.

Adapted by Rev. Jason S. Boyd, Music: Geneva Psalter (1551)

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Let us pray together. . .*)

O God, we commit to use all our gifts – wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, administration, hospitality, and finances – in the service of acting as co-workers with you and each other for peace and justice to flow like a mighty stream. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Pastor Martha

**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, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jason

*** SENDING HYMN**

"We Shall Overcome"

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
that we shall overcome someday.

We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll go hand in hand some day.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
that we are not afraid today.

God will see us through, God will see us through,
God will see us through someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
God will see us through someday.

The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
the truth shall make us free someday.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
that we shall live in peace someday.

Tune: We Shall Overcome; Found at #570 in New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

Pastor Jason

POSTLUDE

Robin Bower

Please remain seated for the Postlude.

**WE RETURN TO THE WORLD
RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S SPIRIT**

As our worship ends, our service begins.

*+Portions of today's worship were adapted from **Creating the Beloved Community: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, New York City. Copyright 2022 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.*

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