



**Morning Prayer**  
**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend**  
**Prayers for Social Justice**  
**January 17, 2021 9 am**  
**Ministers of the Liturgy**  
The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee  
**Members of the Vestry**

Susan Edmondson, Warden

Edla Ann Bloom, Lucille Clinkman, Steve Ketcham,

Lisa Ruggiero, Gayle Ruscitti, Wayne Stochaj, Peach Warren

**Musicians:** Randolph Bloom, Mary Johnson, Beth Stochaj, Jeff Lukas

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" [Micah 6:8]*

**Prelude**

*Lord, What a Mornin'*

Beth Stochaj, soloist

**Mother Judith Opening Sentence**

*"Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place." [Jeremiah 22:3]*

**Mother Judith The Confession**

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

O Thou 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 thee 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 hate 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 an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love thy will. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray.

## **Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## **Steve Ketcham & Peach Warren The Invitatory and Psalter**

Pray for those who are hungry.

**Pray harder for those who will not feed them.**

Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

**Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.**

Pray for those who are homeless.

**Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.**

Pray for the sick and lonely.

**Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.**

Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

**Pray harder for those who will not listen.**

Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

**Pray harder for those who exploit them.**

Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

**Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.**

Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

**Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.**

## **Mary Johnson Invitatory Psalm 100 *Jubilate***

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \* he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age

## **Edla Ann Bloom Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17**

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \* and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \* but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before \* and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \* it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*

your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, \*

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;

all of them were written in your book; \*

they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \* how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*

to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

### **Lucille Clinkman      A Reading from the First Book of Samuel [3:1-10]**

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."

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

## **Gayle Ruscitti & Lisa Ruggiero** Canticle: Romans 12:9-18

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

<sup>10</sup>**love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.**

<sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>**Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.**

<sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

**14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.**

<sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

<sup>16</sup>**Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;**  
do not claim to be wiser than you are.

<sup>17</sup>**Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.**

<sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

## **Susan Edmondson** A Reading from the Gospel of John [1:43-51]

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

## **Homily**

### **Lisa Ruggiero** The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;\*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \* in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,\* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,\* and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \* to Abraham and his children forever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
As it was in the beginning and will be forever. **Amen**

**Musical Meditation** *Lift Every Voice*

Hymnal #599

*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.*

*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.*

**Mother Judith The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Mother Judith & Susan Edmondson The Prayers**

**Hear our cry, O God. And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior; **deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Look upon your congregation; **give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Declare your glory among the nations; **and your wonders among all peoples.**

Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away; **never forget the lives of your poor.**

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

**so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

**Mother Judith**    **The Lord's Prayer**

**Mother Judith**    **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Wayne Stochaj & Steve Ketcham**        **The Prayers of the People**

**Wayne**        Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves and to strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor those vows and pray for our nation, for wise and just leaders, and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.

**Steve** We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

God of peace and gentleness, **Hear our prayer.**

**Wayne**        We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future.

God of generosity and compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

**Steve** We pray for all nations, that they may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give.

God of liberty and freedom, **Hear our prayer.**

**Wayne** We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the disparity between the rich and poor and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice.

God of all gifts and blessings, **Hear our prayer.**

**Steve** We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we will respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws.

God of fellowship and equality, **Hear our prayer.**

**Wayne** We pray for a reverence of creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

God of nature and the universe, **Hear our prayer.**

**Steve** We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, that we may welcome them into our midst and treat them with fairness, dignity, and respect.

God of outcasts and wanderers, **Hear our prayer.**

**Wayne** We pray for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care and that God's loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer.

God of comfort and healing, **Hear our prayer.**

**Steve** We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God's grace.

God of absolution and mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

**Wayne** We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, especially those abandoned on our borders and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be relieved and protected.

God of children and families, **Hear our prayer.**

**Steve** We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that we may be an instrument of your healing love.

God of outreach and restoration, **Hear our prayer.**

**Wayne** We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart.

God of eternal life and resurrecting love, **Hear our prayer.**

**Steve** Let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others (*please add your requests in this moment of silence*)

**Wayne** Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family; give us grace to learn your ways and to do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. **Amen**

## **Musical Meditation**

*Jeff Lukas*

### **Prayers for Justice**

#### **Edla Ann Bloom:**

O God, you have given all peoples one common origin. It is your will that we be gathered together as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of humankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. May there be an end to division, strife and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Peach Warren:**

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;

For we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;

For You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice;

For You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;

For You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;

For You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing,



if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power, To *do* instead of just pray and to *become* instead of merely to wish. **Amen.**

**Lucille Clinkman      A Prayer in Time of Transition**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined, through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

**Gayle Ruscitti      A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus**

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 375,000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Wayne Stochaj      A Prayer for an End to Racism**

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

**Steve Ketcham      A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

**Mother Judith      Blessing**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Mother Judith      Dismissal:** Let us bless the Lord.