

Flowers are given today in honor and in loving memory of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

PRELUDE

Dr. Kathy Bullock

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Today, we celebrate how God's Spirit stirred in the heart of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Many: We open our hearts to wisdom that still sings to our souls.

One: "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

Many: "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

One: "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Many: "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."

One: We could go on and on, yet we know that today matters and makes a difference.

Many: Let us worship the God of our ancestors; Christ who came to set the oppressed free; and the Spirit who animates our lives. Alleluia and Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#593

**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 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 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 a place for which our people 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,

God who has brought us thus far on 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, forget you;

**Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native
land.**

OPENING PRAYER

God who calls us and commissions us to be bearers of good news to those on the margins.

God who for centuries has put upon our hearts to do justice, to show loving kindness and

to walk humbly with You. We know that we stumble and struggle. We know that our anger can turn quickly to hatred. We know that people push our buttons, frustrate us, and we would rather love those who are just like us. We confess that we are not the “we” You call and craft us to be. Too often we take the narrow way of “us versus them”; our way or the highway; and clinging to our opinions even when we contradict Your truth. Save us from our individual salvation plans to Your more inclusive, expansive embrace. Empower us to be a light to the world. Let Your will take up permanent residence in our hearts, live in our souls, guide our lives every day. In the name of the One we follow, Jesus our Savior. Amen.

POEM

Only A Memory?

by Priscilla Crumel

Written in 1986, when President Reagan declared the third Monday of January a federal holiday honoring Dr. King’s birthday.

SPECIAL MUSIC

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:18b-19

Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.

TESTIMONY

Dr. Kathy Bullock

SPECIAL MUSIC

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

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.

CLOSING HYMN

We Shall Overcome

#570

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day:
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.**

**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.**

**Our God will see us through, our God will see us through,
Our God will see us through some day.
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe, Our God will see us through some day.**

**The truth will make us free, the truth will make us free,
The truth will make us free some day. Oh deep in my heart, I do believe.
The truth will make us free some day.**

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace some day.
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall live in peace some day.**

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Dr. Kathy Bullock

Usher/Greeters: Sara Little and Barbara Shaver
Bus Driver: Dale Woodling