

**Salem United Church of Christ  
Worship Order**

January 17, 2021 • The Second Sunday after Epiphany **(GREEN)**  
Martin Luther King Sunday

PRELUDE Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard

WELCOME Rev. Russ Kirby  
Craig Wilderman

RINGING OF THE BELL Wilderman Family

CALL TO WORSHIP Krissy Berry

One: O God, we remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,

**Many: A beacon of light in our darkness.**

One: He stood for justice,

**Many: Marched for righteousness,**

One: Preached of love,

**Many: And worked to heal our nation.**

One: May we all find hope in his life, and his message.

**All: And work to repair the brokenness in our world.**

OPENING HYMN *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* NCH 472

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the  
light:**

**Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,**

**Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:**

**Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the shadows appear and the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,**

**At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:**

**Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

UNISON PRAYER

Krissy Berry

**O God, make us willing to do your will, come what may.  
Increase the number of persons of good will and moral  
sensitivity. Give us renewed confidence in nonviolence and  
the way of love as taught by Christ. Amen.**

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

HYMN OF PREPARATION *Ancient Words*

**Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh let the ancient words impart. (Repeat)**

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SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 5:38-48*

Krissy Berry

<sup>38-42</sup> “Here’s another old saying that deserves a second look: ‘Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.’ Is that going to get us anywhere? Here’s what I propose: ‘Don’t hit back at all.’ If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

<sup>43-47</sup> “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

<sup>48</sup> “In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

THE MESSAGE

THE MESSAGE

“Just Keep Loving Them”

Rev. Kirby

**VIDEO:** “Love Your Enemies” Martin Luther King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Fs8vSsJg-A>

MUSICAL OFFERING

Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard

DOXOLOGY NCH #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that Love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Kirby

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O God

NCH #769

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;  
incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

NCH 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 he 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 the 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.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Kirby**

**Leader: May the Peace of God go with you.**

**People: And also with you. Amen.**

**SENDING FORTH**

*God Be With You*

**NCH 81**

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude

Chappell Kingsland, Keyboard