January 21st, 2024 10:30 a.m. DIGITAL BULLETIN

Rev. David Vallelunga, Pastor; Lucille Wanee, Liturgist; Christina Wong, Zoomologist

**The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Dave

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE Everybody

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

[Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/24974.html)

**WE REMEMBER THESE CHALLENGING WORDS AS WE HONOR REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING THIS MORNING.**

We also embrace these clear truths: hatred paralyzes Life,

**BUT LOVE RELEASES LIFE.**

Hatred confuses Life, **BUT LOVE HARMONIZES LIFE.**

Hatred darkens life,

**BUT LOVE ILLUMINATES IT. THIS EPIPHANY DAY, MAY WE WALK IN THE ILLUMINATION OF CONVICTION AND INTEGRITY. AMEN!**

HYMN # 344 “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

**Lord, you have come to the lakeshore,**

**looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones.**

**You only asked me to follow humbly.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,**

**and while smiling, have spoken my name.**

**Now my boats left on the shoreline behind me,**

**By your side, I will seek other seas.**

**You know so well my possessions.**

**My boat carries no gold and no weapons.**

**You will find there, my nets and labor.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,**

**and while smiling, have spoken my name.**

**Now my boats left on the shoreline behind me,**

**By your side, I will seek other seas.**

**You need my hands full of caring,**

**through my labors to give others rest,**

**and constant-love that keeps on loving.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,**

**and while smiling, have spoken my name.**

**Now my boats left on the shoreline behind me,**

**By your side, I will seek other seas.**

**You, who have fished other oceans,**

**ever longed for by souls who are waiting,**

**my loving-friend, as thus you call me.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,**

**and while smiling, have spoken my name.**

**Now my boats left on the shoreline behind me,**

**By your side, I will seek other seas.**

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US (10:30) Pastor Dave

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

WE SING AND PRAY FOR JUSTICE AND TRUTH

SONG # 2242 “Walk With Me”

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

**When Moses heard the call of God,**

**he said, “Lord, don’t send me.”**

**But God told Moses “You’re the one to set my people free.”**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

 *God of our forebears and our God, who has summoned women and men throughout the ages to be thy witnesses and sometimes martyrs for thee, we bow before you this day in remembrance and thanksgiving for the life and legacy of thy servant, witness and martyr, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We thank thee for his time among us, for his words and for his deeds, and for the quality of his living witness which eases the pain of recalling the brevity of his years. We rejoice in his example of obedient faith and the scenes and stations of his life which inform and enrich our own faith journeys. And we beseech thee this day for the strength, steadfastness and courage not only to remember but also to obey. Amen.*

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

**Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock;**

**But Jesus knew his holiness and he became the Rock.**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

 *God of strength and courage, we remember the footsteps of Dr. King: walking everywhere in Montgomery, Alabama, during the bus boycott; sidestepping snarling dogs, swinging billy clubs, and torrential fire hoses in Birmingham; charting a King's highway in the desert wastelands of bigotry and hatred from Selma to Montgomery, from Memphis to Jackson, from Chicago to Cicero; walking ever and always where Jesus walked among the lonely and the lost; the downtrodden and the outcast; those denied their dignity and robbed of their rights. Lord, guide and enable us to follow his footsteps that we too may be found in those places of danger, division, discord and sorrow where love is so desperately needed but so painfully absent. Let us hear and feel anew the words of the old freedom song beckoning us to faith commitment in community with our fellow disciples of Jesus Christ, saying, "Walk together children, and don't get weary." Amen.*

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

**Young Mary Magdalene was sure**

**her life could be much more,**

**and by her faith she dared to let God’s love unlock the door.**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

 *Loving God, we remember the gentle, patient courage of Dr. King, as he made the teachings of Jesus the literal rule for loving: refusing the temptation to render an eye for an eye, but rendering instead good for evil; nonviolently offering the other cheek to those who, blinded by hate, taunted and loving those who chose to be his enemies and persecutors; following his Lord in showing the greatest love of all by laying down his life for others. Lord, give us the courage to live by what we say we believe and to accept the teachings of Christ as codes of conduct rather than mere words of inspiration. Amen.*

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

**And when you share your faith with me,**

**and work for life made new,**

**The witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you.**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

 *God of us all, we remember the restless and unrelenting commitment of Dr. King, as he refused to barter justice or compromise thy Word; insisting that the demand for justice, freedom and human dignity applies to all thy children in Southeast Asia as well as the South Bronx, and throughout the two-thirds of thy creation where injustice and oppression preserve the privilege of the other third. Lord, save us from the temptation to be satisfied with partial fulfillment and limited expression of thy truth. Help us both to love our neighbors and also to see the whole world as our neighborhood. O God, fashion and mold our memories into a guiding vision for active discipleship, so that we may not only long and yearn for thy coming kingdom but may also recognize its arrival and presence in the risen Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.*  (Rev. Dr. Randolph Nugent, retired General Secretary, Board of Global Ministries)

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you,**

**and build the land that God has planned**

**where love shines through.**

GOSPEL Mark 1:14-20 Liturgist

HOMILY “It’s About Time!” Pastor Dave

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY and \*PRAYER OF CONSECRATION Liturgist

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

HYMN # 2238 “In the Midst of New Dimensions” sung to HYFRODOL

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples**

**wandering in their separate ways?**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey, now and ever, ever more.**

**Through the flood of starving people,**

**warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches?**

**Who will light the flame of care?**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey, now and ever, ever more.**

**As we stand a world divided by our own self- seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams.**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey, now and ever, ever more.**

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey, now and ever, ever more.**

**Should the threats of dire predictions**

**cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey, now and ever, ever more.**

BLESSING We close with one more teaching from Rev. Dr. King:

[*Now, I say to you today my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: - 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'*](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/24969.html) *And because of this inherent equality,* [*I have the courage to believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.*](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/9355.html) *We shall overcome! Amen.*

 POSTLUDE