



MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
Second Sunday After Epiphany
Martin Luther King Sunday
January 16, 2022

WELCOME

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

PRELUDE

Ji Hye Jung

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to worship God,

ALL: Who creates us and loves us;

Leader: who gifts our world with diversity and makes us for community

ALL: Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

Leader: who inspires children, youth, young adults and people of all ages,

ALL: to seek justice, share power and live together in love and equity;

Leader: who invites us to join in the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

ALL: And whose presence, grace and love sustain us in our living.

Leader: We gather to worship God,

ALL: To God be all the glory, honor and praise!

OPENING HYMN

God of Abraham and Sarah

Black No. 20

INVOCATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE

God of our weary years and God of our tears, you who has brought us far on the way, we invite your presence into our midst as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality and love. We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted and hill and mountain made low, the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight so that your glory is revealed, and all flesh will see it together. Let your spirit dwell with us, and strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow until all God's children can say with full conviction "Free at last, Free at last, Thank God Almighty, I'm Free at last." Amen

SUNG RESPONSE

**Spirit divine, attend our prayers
And make this house thy home;
Descend with all thy gracious powers,
O come; great Spirit, come!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have been led astray by the idols of our world. We have depended on our privilege and our possessions and have not placed our trust in your grace. We have carelessly consumed the gifts you offer and have failed to be faithful stewards of the earth's resources, blind to the very miracles before us. We have sought security in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Holy Spirit. Forgive us we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may know love and serve you faithfully, through Christ we pray. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: Christ unmask the idols of our world and frees us from all that we oppress and what oppresses us, seek justice and mercy, trust and believe. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, Amen

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE:

Leader: God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done Justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folks whose names never were in the news, but are recorded in your book of life,

ALL: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: Especially this day we thank you for Martin Luther King Jr, for his courage and conviction, for his passion for peace, and for his tireless quest of a nation that keeps faith with its promises,

ALL: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Coretta Scott King and the King family; for the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. and Mrs. King; for Medgar Evers, Rosa Parks, James Meredith, Malcom X, and countless others who stood in the front lines and marched, integrated schools and restaurants, or sat in buses and refused to move.

ALL: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny of oppression, who were beaten, raped, and lynched; and for the nameless multitudes today whose lives are stunted and cut short by economic and social structures of brutality.

ALL: We grieve and promise to work for Justice, O God.

Leader: And for children, women, and men of every race who are denied education, health care, jobs, housing and hope in our land,

ALL: We grieve and promise to work for Justice, O God

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen

ANTHEM

Free at Last

Traditional, arr. Peter Amidon
Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**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 today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.**

OFFERING

Beloved children of God, too often we see the world through the lens of scarcity. We look at all the things we do not have or have long "wish lists" that involve things that are bigger and better.

And yet, our stories of faith tell us that the smallest things often become enormous when blessed, and placed in God's hands. And so, we invite you to bring your "little," your gift or offering. Lift it up to God and see what great thing God can do to bless the entire community in abundance.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son,
And through him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace.
May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your
faithful daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism by the power of
The Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

DOXOLOGY (Sung in unison)

Believe, with a hopeful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"
Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us." Believe!

SCRIPTURE READINGS *John 2:1-11, 1Corinthians 12:1-11*

SERMON *"They Have No Wine"* Elsa Marshall

CLOSING HYMN *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?* Black No. 539

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of
Alaine R. Leon
Given by Alden & Lynne Duffill*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of
Rev. Lawrence Milford Stone
Given by John Howard Stone*

Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC

90 Maple Street, Danvers, MA 01923

978-774-4510 · info@maplestreetchurch.org · www.maplestreetchurch.org

Morning Worship Service — Sundays at 10am

Zoom Prayer & Table Worship — Tuesdays at 6pm

Zoom Bible Study — Thursdays at 12noon

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 10 am – 1 pm