

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ**  
**Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday**  
**January 19, 2025**

---

\*\*\*\* *Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.*

**GATHERING BELL**

*At the sound of the bell, please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.*

**PRELUDE**

*Here I Am, Lord, arr. Robert Farlee*

Shannon Jones

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Paul Ashby

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

**Whoever you are...and wherever you are on life's journey...  
you are welcome here!**

**OPENING REFLECTION**

Paul

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Julie Krueger

Blessed are the humble who know they make mistakes.

**Blessed are those whose hearts are broken when they see injustice and cruelty.**

Blessed are the gentle who work to heal the brokenness of the world.

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for God's justice to happen among us.**

Blessed are those whose hearts overflow with mercy.

**Blessed are those who seek what is true and holy.**

Blessed are those who practice the ways of peace.

**Blessed are people of courage like Dr. Martin Luther King who were persecuted for the work of justice. People of courage point us toward the heart of God.**

\*\*\*\*HYMN Song Folder 1, vs. 1,2,4

*Gather Us In*

All

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.

See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken. Gather us in, the blind and the lame;

Call to us now and we shall awaken. We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; We are the old who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty. Gather us in, the proud and the strong;

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly. Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away,

But here in this place the new light is shining. Now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever. Gather us in and make us your own;

Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bones

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Paul

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Respond to each shared prayer request with "Peace, Shalom, Salaam."

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Julie

OFFERTORY

*House of Grace*, Joseph M Martin

Choir

\*\*\*\*DOXOLOGY (tune: *Tallis Canon*)

**Praise God who calls all humankind;  
Praise Christ for loving ties that bind;  
Praise Spirit making all things new;  
One Love, One God, we honor you!**

\*\*\*\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Julie

**Holy One, Source of loving mercy and justice, we are grateful for the heroes in our life. We are thankful for prophets of justice, for wise elders, for those who serve the poor and hungry. Open our eyes to see the people of courage all around us, and to walk with them in compassionate service. AMEN**

\*\*\*\*HYMN NCH #181, 1 & 3

*You Are Salt for the Earth, O People*

All

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!  
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grown in the City of God!  
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-16

Julie

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to Abba in heaven.”

MESSAGE

*“Who Can Be a Hero?”*

Paul

\*\*\*\*HYMN (tune: *Holy Manna*)

*Dare to Live the Dream God Gives You*

All

Dare to live the dream God gives you, seek out paths as yet unknown,  
for the Spirit leads you onward, and you never walk alone.

Refrain:

Go in courage, walking humbly, bearing love none can destroy.  
Doing justice, loving mercy, go with God, and go in joy.

When the dread of doubt assails you, and the road remains unclear,  
yet our faithful God will guide you through the doubt and dread of fear. *Refrain*

Dare to live the dream God gives us, brave the path, and face the fear,  
for the Spirit will unite us; Christ himself is always near. *Refrain*

\*\*\*\*BENEDICTION

Paul

\*\*\*\*SUNG BENEDICTION

*World Peace Prayer*

All

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
Let peace fill our universe!

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

RECESSIONAL

*I've Just Come from the Fountain*, arr. Richard Bellingham

Shannon

---

### **Acknowledgements**

Unless otherwise noted, music reprinted and/or streamed with permission. OneLicense #A-709231. All rights reserved.

- ◇ *Here I Am, Lord*. Arr. Robert Buckley Farlee © 2001, Augsburg Fortress.
- ◇ *Gather Us In*. Text and tune by Marty Haugen © 1982 G.I.A Publications, Inc.
- ◇ House of Grace. Words and music: Joseph M. Martin © 2003 by Malcolm Music, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc.
- ◇ The doxology words are by Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, published in *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow: Doxologies for the Church* by The God Is Still Speaking® Writers Group of the United Church of Christ © 2024, The Pilgrim Press.
- ◇ *You Are Salt for the Earth, O People*. Text and tune by Marty Haugen © 1986 G.I.A Publications, Inc.
- ◇ *Dare to Live the Dream God Gives You*. Tune: *Holy Manna*, William Moore, 1830. Text: David Bjorlin © 2020, GIA Publications, Inc.
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

---

### **Today's Worship Leaders**

preacher  
liturgist  
musicians

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby  
Julie Krueger  
Shannon Jones, Karen Caton, Chancel Choir