

Come to the Table: Catholic Worship for All

January 19, 2020

Sponsored by Dignity/New York

Welcome to Come to the Table: Catholic Worship for All. We are drawn now into community where we believe that Jesus is present in the "breaking of the bread" — where no one is outcast and no one is without value and no one is excluded from the feast. God is found in the ordinary and every day. Today, let us seek God in a meal shared together as we commemorate the life of Martin Luther King Jr, who was preacher, dreamer, revolutionist, and leader.

Call to Gather

Welcome to our liturgy on this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. We are reminded of the 1961 Freedom Riders who set out to protest segregation in interstate travel, leaving from Washington, D.C. into the Deep South. Their buses were ambushed and burned; their bodies beaten by mobs, the Klan and Southern police. Many of them ended up in Mississippi's Parchman Penitentiary, charged with trespassing. Voices rose out of the cells, expressing their determination, often singing "Ain't Gonna let Nobody Turn Me Round." Let us reflect on the places and spaces in our lives where we need to take a stand.

Build Us a Table

Lori True

Opening Prayer

God to Whom We Belong Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday UCC.org

God to whom we belong, we know that each person is of infinite worth to you, that You delight in all our colors, shapes, and sizes, and that You dwell in the love that holds us together as your One Body.

Held captive by the bondage of racism, we confess that at times we have failed to love -- alienating ourselves from You, our community, and our very souls.

May we overcome the temptation to live in fear: insular and distant from one another. May we find strength in You to stop quietly accepting the system that divides, excludes, and crucifies your Body.

Source of all that is just and true, fortify us with the courage and integrity to draw one another out of numb, collective amnesia and remember your love that holds us close.

Let us never forget who we are in You, because it is only in You that we are freed from the shackles of guilt and sin to act with sincere passion for justice. Trusting in your future promise, we anticipate the day when racism will be no more.

Living and moving in your Spirit, strengthen us to be active participants in the fulfillment of that promise!

First Reading:

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The Most High said to me, "You are my servant Israel, in whom I will be glorified." Thus says the Most High, who formed me in the womb to be God's servant, who destined me to bring back the children of Jacob, and gather again the people of Israel; "It is not enough for you to do my bidding, to restore the tribes of Leah, Rachel, and Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations, so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Do You Know Me

Words and Music by James E. Moore

Second Reading:

EXTREMISTS OF JUSTICE Martin Luther King, Jr.

from "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community"

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish truth. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate.

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love? Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice?

Gospel Reading

Luke 10: 25-37

An expert on the Law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?" Jesus answered, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" The expert on the Law replied: "You must love the most high God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you'll live." But the expert on the Law, seeking self-justification, pressed Jesus further: "And just who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers, the traveler was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveler lying beside the road, but passed by on the other side. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by the other side.

"But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and, filled with compassion, approached the traveler and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the inn-keeper with the request, 'Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I'll repay you on the way back.'

"Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbor to the traveler who fell in with the robbers?" The answer came, "The one who showed compassion." Jesus replied, "Then go and do the same."

Shared Reflection "The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" " " Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prayer of Petitions: *For whom shall we pray?*

An Affirmation of Faith Based on the Writings of Dr. King -- The United Presbyterian Church

I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events which surround us.

I refuse to believe that we are so bound to racism and war, that peace, brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.

I believe there is an urgent need for people to overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to violence and oppression.

I believe that we need to discover a way to live together in peace, a way which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of this way is love.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. I believe that right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.

I believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.

I believe that what self-centered people have torn down, other-centered people can build up.

By the goodness of God at work within people, I believe that brokenness can be healed. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid."

As we gather around the table of friendship we come with profound thanksgiving for the countless times we have been welcomed by the Holy One dwelling in another person. Because of open minds and loving hearts we have been received with warmth and kindness. **All: Come in. We welcome you. God is here.**

We are especially grateful for biblical compassionate persons renowned for their all-embracing hospitality. Their generous welcome inspires and encourages our own WELCOMING of those most in need of food, clothing, lodging and visitation. **All: Come in. We welcome you. God is here.**

We remember the two on the road to Emmaus who were welcomed by the risen Christ. He drew them close with compassion and lifted their spirits with kindness. As they sat at table in the breaking of the bread their disappointed hearts began to heal. **All: Come in. We welcome you. God is here.**

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

**All: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said:

**All: "Drink this, all of you: This is the cup of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."**



In each of our lives Jesus comes as the Bread of Life - to be eaten, to be consumed by us. This is how He loves us. Then Jesus comes in our human life as the hungry one, the other, hoping to be fed with the Bread of our life, our hearts by loving, and our hands by serving. In loving and serving, we prove that we have been created in the likeness of God, for God is Love and when we love we are like God. - (Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

Behold what you are, become what you receive. The Body of Christ.

Table Song

David Haas

We are the body of Christ. Broken and poured out, promise of life from death, we are the body of Christ.

Closing Prayer

God, we ask you to challenge us, especially when we become too set in our ways.

Inspire us to review our priorities and values, so that our attitudes may be to give generously, without the cost. Open our eyes and hearts to all people, particularly to those who are vulnerable or marginalized, or who can do nothing for us in return.

Compassionate God, open our hearts that we may feel the breath and play of Your spirit.

Unclench our hands that we may reach out to one another in openness and generosity.

Free our lips that we may speak for those whose voices are not heard.

Unblock our ears to hear the cries of the broken-hearted.

Open our eyes to see Christ in friend and stranger, that in sharing our love and our pain, our poverty and our prosperity, we may move towards that peace and justice which come from You, and so be bearers of divine reconciliation. **Amen**

Blessing

Go from this place to reap the harvest of God's love. Go from this place to continue to sow seeds of justice, peace, and love. Go from this place to nourish and to be nourished, knowing that God is ever a part of our lives. Amen

Closing Song

AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME 'ROUND - Sweet Honey From the Rock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPuBGcng6Tw>

Sign of Peace: *Let us extend a sign of peace. Our justice journeys reveals our need for each other.*

Many people join us from their HouseChurch.

Westchester County, Mount Vernon, Hastings, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Manhattan, New Windsor, Buffalo, East Setauket; NY, Nashville, TN, Chicago, Chillicothe, IL, Silver Spring, MD, E Brookfield, Mansfield, Medford, Provincetown, Revere, MA, Austin, Plano, TX, San Francisco, CA, New Haven, CT, Bennington, VT, Washington, DC, Allentown, Philadelphia, PA, Hawaii, Burlington, KS, Fort Wayne, IN, Detroit, MI, Columbus, OH, Ireland, London, England, Peace Corps Volunteers joining us from Armenia, GNRC members in Manila, Philippines and all those who are praying with us right now! We hold them in our hearts.

For more information: ComeToTheTable@DignityNY.org

All music used with permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-700554

God to Whom We Belong: Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday © United Church of Christ. All rights reserved.

700 Prospect Ave. Cleveland, OH 44115 Used with Permission.

'Where do we go from here?' It's taken from the last book that [King] wrote. He wrote the book in 1967 after the passage of major Civil Rights legislation. The book is really a guide to where we go after the Civil Rights legislation of the 1960's. What is left undone?