

First Congregational Church of St. Louis, United Church of Christ
an Open & Affirming Congregation

Let Us Dream God's Dream

OUR PAST, PRESENT,
& FUTURE:
CELEBRATING
Martin Luther King, Jr.



Sunday Worship • January 15, 2023

First Congregational Church of St. Louis
United Church of Christ
An Open & Affirming Congregation

Welcome!

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

Restrooms are located down the hall on the main floor.

All Gender Restrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary
and downstairs in the Fellowship Hall (which is accessible).

Changing tables are located in the Nursery on the main floor
and at the back of the sanctuary.

The Coffee Bar is available at the back of the sanctuary from 9:30–11:30.

***An asterisk** is an invitation to rise, in body or spirit.
Bolded text is an invitation for the congregation
to read or sing in unison.

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Announcements

Mike McKee

Usher

Bert Merrell

Zoom Coffee Hour Host

Jane Feagans-King

Chancel Choir

Jeral Becker, Marty Black,
Paul Black, Kathy Botney,
Dan Brodsky, Mary Brown,
Megan Glass, Carol Klein,
Sheila Merrell, David Piston,
Nathan Ruggles, Stephanie Ruggles,
Leila Sadat, Katie Solomon,
Owen Solomon, Aiden Smith

Worship January 15, 2023



Welcome & Announcements

Mike McKee, *Treasurer*

Prelude

"Eternal Light"

Leo Sowerby

***Call to the People**

Leader: We gather to worship God,

People: Who creates us and loves us;

Leader: Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

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

(Sung) 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 the 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.

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

People: To seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

(Sung) 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.

(Continued on the next page)

Leader: We worship God, who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

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

Leader: We gather to worship God.

People: To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

(Sung) 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.

Prayers of Petition & Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Our Mother, 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

*Life's most persistent
and urgent question is,
'What are you doing
for others?'*

-MLK Jr.

Our Past, Present, & Future: Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reader: *Incline your ear, O God, and answer us,
for we are poor, hungry, naked, homeless and sick.
Preserve our lives, for we are devoted to you;
save your servants who trust in you.*

Dr. King's work reminds us:
church and state must work together for the common good;
laws must establish justice for all,
but hearts must change for the Beloved Community to flourish.

**People: We will do the work of justice for all;
we will open our hearts to an ever-expanding vision of community.
We will trust the Spirit of God to guide and move us
between the present and the anticipated Realm of Justice.**

Hymn Response

"My Eyes Have Seen the Glory" vv. 1 & 4

#610

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

**My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
who is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
And has loosed the fateful lightning of a terrible swift sword;
God's truth is marching on.**

**[Refrain] Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
God's truth is marching on.**

**In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in whose bosom that transfigures you and me;
As Christ died to make us holy, let us die to make all free;
While God is marching on.**

[Refrain]

Candle Lighting for Our Past

Reader: *You are our God; be gracious to your children,
for we cry out to you all day long.*

Rebecca Utz

Bring joy to the soul of your servants, for to you, O God, we lift up our soul.

Dr. King's vision inspires us:

"We are tied together in a single garment of destiny
caught in an inescapable network of mutuality."

**People: We will work for a world where lives are enriched by difference;
where people of different genders, races and sexual orientations
work together in Shalom for the good of the whole.
We will work for a nation where persons will be judged solely upon
the content of their characters.**

Hymn Response "We Shall Overcome" vv. 1, 2, 6

#570

WE SHALL OVERCOME

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.**

**We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll go hand in hand some day.**

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall live in peace some day.**

Candle Lighting for Our Present

Reader: *For you, O God, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
Give ear, O God, to the prayers of the marginalized;
listen to our supplications.*

Mike McKee

Dr. King's words challenge us:
"...injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

People: We will listen to the cries of the poor;
we will stand in solidarity with those who suffer oppression;
we will take as our own the hopes of all who long for full human life;
we will create in our midst the Beloved Community with room for all,
justice for all, joy for all, Shalom for all.
We will listen to the voice of the Christ, who stirs about
liberating all minds, hearts and spirits.

Choral Response

"Praise His Holy Name"

Keith Hampton

*Sing till the power of the Lord come down.
Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.
Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!*

*Sing till the power of the Lord come down.
Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!
Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone and there's a cross for me.
Jesus, Jesus how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!*

*Sing till the power of the Lord come down.
Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!
Holy Jesus, Praise His Name, Oh! Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name.
Hallelujah! Let us Praise His Name, Hallelujah, Lord! Praise His Holy name.
Hallelujah! Praise His Name! Hallelujah, Lord! Praise His Holy name.*

Candle Lighting for Our Future

Reader: *In our days of trouble we call on you,
for you will answer us.*

Emily Stokes

*There is none like you among the gods, O God,
nor are there any works like yours to the ends of the earth.
Teach us your way, O God, that we may walk in your truth.*

Dr. King's life inspires us:

"I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God
and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed and nonviolent
redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land...
I still believe that someday we shall overcome."

**People: We will overcome because of our faith and trust in God.
We will reach the goal laid before us without faltering.
We will never give up our hope for equality with one another.
We will live Dr. King's dream into our reality.**

Hymn Response

"O for a World"

**#575
AZMON**

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

Community Lighting for Hope

***Blessing**

Leader: Dr. King had a dream. The ideals of justice and freedom and the belief that all are created equal in the eyes of God are noble principles.

But they are meaningless unless we embrace these ideals.

People: I will not keep silent. I will struggle with myself. I will not rest until the dream of justice and freedom becomes my personal dream.

I must realize that I am not an innocent bystander.

I can help bring about the dream by my action, or delay it by inaction.

Leader: Dr. King's dream of a day when people from all races and nations, even the offspring of slaves and former slave owners, can sit at a table as brothers and sisters and find ways of transforming their differences into the common good. That was Dr. King's. What is your dream?

People: My dream is that one day soon I will find a way to stop just celebrating the dream and start living it.

It must become a part of my daily life or nothing much will change.

Leader: The dream is not about an ideal world. It is about the real world.

Dr. King's poetic refrain, "I Have a Dream," is a call for us to remember the real world where injustice rules.

People: When I am in the shelter of my home, I must remember the unhoused.

When I eat, I must remember the hungry.

When I feel secure, I must remember the insecure.

When I see injustice, I must remember that it will not stop unless I stop it.

Leader: I have a dream!

People: I also have a dream.

I have a dream that the Holy Spirit will arouse in me that very flame of righteousness that caused Dr. King to become a living sacrifice for the freedom and liberation of all of God's children.

Then I will be able to resist racial injustice everywhere I see it, even within myself.

Postlude

Improvisation on "We Shall Overcome"

arr. Carl Haywood

- Announcements -

Faith & Fun Family Event

Friday January 20, 6-8 PM

Families are invited to join Emily Stokes in the Social Hall for dinner and a family activity exploring symbols and how we use them to represent ourselves and God. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Emily!

FCC Committee Presentation

Sunday January 22 after Worship

Next Sunday after worship our committees will present their revitalization ideas and projected costs, based on the SWOT and GAP analyses and our dreaming for the future. A 2023 budget conversation will take place afterwards. Lunch will be provided.

2023 Budget Overview Sessions

Jan. 22 (on site) & Jan. 24 (Zoom)

Our leadership is hosting two budget overview sessions to facilitate understanding of the 2023 proposed budget and answer any financial questions. The first is Sunday January 22 following the committee presentations after worship. The second is on Zoom on January 24 at 7:00 PM. Contact the church office for the Zoom instructions.

FCC Annual Meeting

Sunday January 29, 10:00 AM

Members, please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on January 29 following a brief worship service. During the meeting we will hear from our leadership and vote on the 2023 budget and new leadership.

Save the Date: Lombard Mediation Overview with Ward Klein

Sunday February 19, 11-12:30 PM

In 2017 FCC worked through a congregational mediation process with Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. On February 19 Ward Klein will lead a 90-minute session giving an overview of the Lombard church conflict mediation process and the basic principles leading to and underlining healthy church communication dynamics.

This Week at FCC

Sunday January 15

10:00 AM - Worship Service

11:20 AM - Zoom Coffee Hour

Meeting ID: 314 721 5060

Passcode: coffee

7:30 PM - AA Meeting (Soc. Hall)

Church Office Closed

Monday and Tuesday

(MLK Holiday and regular staff team day off)

Wednesday January 18

8:00 AM - Wydown Men's Club
(Soc. Hall)

7:00 PM - Council Meeting (Zoom)

Thursday January 19

6:00 PM - New Line Theatre
(Soc. Hall)

7:30 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday January 20

6:00 PM - Faith & Fun Family
Event (Soc. Hall)

Sunday January 22

10:00 AM - Worship Service

Faith & Fun (Soc. Hall)

11:00 AM - Committee Presentations
2023 Budget Overview

11:20 AM - Zoom Coffee Hour

7:30 PM - AA Meeting (Soc. Hall)

Sunday Worship Leadership

It is a new year and our worship leadership schedule is wide open! Each Sunday members of the congregation serve as ushers/greeters, announcement readers, scripture readers, and coffee bar preparers. On the first Sunday of the month volunteers also prepare the communion table. If you're interested in serving, please talk to Hannah Rice!

Greeters/Ushers

- Greet people as they arrive. Direct visitors to the sanctuary, bathrooms, Playground, etc., and answer general questions.
- Hand out bulletins.

Announcement Reader

- Ideally a member of Council so our leadership has visibility in front of the congregation.
- Read the announcements at the beginning of the service - Hannah writes them and prints them out.

Scripture Reader

- Read the scripture during the worship service.

Coffee Bar

- Make coffee and hot water for the coffee bar in the Narthex by 9:30 AM. We can teach you to use the machines!
- Clean up the coffee bar after worship.

Communion Preparer

- Prepare cubed bread for the congregation, as well as a loaf of bread for the table. We provide the wine for the chalice, as well as individually packaged grape juice and gluten free wafers.
- Arrange the Communion table on Sunday morning - The staff team is here to help!

Liturgical resources used in this service:

Call to the People - "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (NCH #593);

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/call-to-worship-martin-luther-king-jr.html>

Prayer - <https://www.bread.org/article/a-prayer-on-martin-luther-king-jr-day/>

Blessing - Adapted from the United Presbyterian Church Prayer on Martin Luther King, Jr.

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you are welcome here.*

Our Ministry Team:

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

Tim Clark, Minister of Music
(tclark@firstcongregational.org)

Emily Stokes (MAPS), Minister of Faith Formation
(estokes@firstcongregational.org)

Hannah Rice (MDiv), Minister of Administration and Membership
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Rev. Mia White (MDiv, MATS, CSD), Senior Minister
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**FCC
Calendar**



**News
& Events**



**Give
Online**

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