



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Creating the Beloved Community
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 16, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend

*Our goal is to create a beloved community
and this will require a qualitative change in our souls
as well as a quantitative change in our lives.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Worship Leaders:

Pastor Michael Small

Liturgist: Deb Farrell **Greeter:** Deb Farrell

Musician: Mike Kerrigan **Special Music:** Doyle Turner

Music Coordinator: Joanna Aamodt

Tech: Gary Jacobson, Aurora Diehl (Video), Esther Covert (Audio)
Gay Jacobson, Chancel and Communion Preparation

Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

PRELUDE

Mike Kerrigan

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our Mother-Father God
has made us to be One Body with many members.

All: United and uniting. This is our calling.

One: God calls us to share our diverse gifts
activated by the one and same Spirit .

All: United and uniting. This is our redemption.

One: God longs for us to be united in love
and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

All: United and uniting. This is our worship.

One: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship
to our Holy God, who challenges us
and calls us to create *the Beloved Community*.

A TIME OF CENTERING

Mike Kerrigan

(During this time of centering, open your hearts to God; be in the present, here and now.)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: O God, all people are your Beloved,
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations

and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.

We are all manifestations of your image.

All: We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.

One: You call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love.

**All: Let us know your presence among us now:
Let us delight in our diversity
that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.**

One: Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action. Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.

All: We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr., and in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community which looks to the common good; privileges all equally, and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all. And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other's gifts, devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own. Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice: We allow the voices of brothers and sisters who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us to be silenced.

We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality.

We foster in them *a denigrating sense of nobodiness.*

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves in the face of their struggle for full human life. *For it is not solely hateful words and actions, but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression.*

All: Christ, have mercy.

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness: You have called us to be *drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness,* Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times, To build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible, and we grow weary.

We cry, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace within us or around us.

We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression, violence and war.

All: Lord, have mercy.

(a moment of silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us!

God has promised:

“I will not keep silent and I will not rest
until the vindication of my beloved people
shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch.

My people shall no more be termed ‘forsaken’
and their land shall no more be termed ‘desolate.’”

We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name:

“My delight is in them.”

**All: Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness,
for empowering our work
and inviting us once again
to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.**

PASSING THE PEACE (*You may nod to your neighbors and say “The Peace of Christ be with you” – Response “And also with you.”*)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"God on the Mountain"

Doyle Turner

SCRIPTURE: John 2:1-12

¹ Three days later, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had likewise been invited to the celebration.

³ At a certain point, the wine ran out, and Jesus’ mother told him, “They have no wine.”

⁴ Jesus replied, “Mother, what does that have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.”

⁵ She instructed those waiting on tables, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶ As prescribed for Jewish ceremonial washings, there were six stone water jars on hand, each one holding between fifteen and twenty-five gallons. ⁷ “Fill those jars with water,” Jesus said, and the servers filled them to the brim.

⁸ “Now,” said Jesus, “draw some out and take it to the caterer.” They did as they were instructed.

⁹ The caterer tasted the water—which had been turned into wine—without knowing where it had come from; the only ones who knew were those who were waiting on tables, since they had drawn the water. The caterer called the bride and groom over ¹⁰ and remarked, “People usually serve the best wine first; then, when the guests have been drinking a while, a lesser vintage is served. What you’ve done is to keep the best wine until now!”

¹¹ Jesus performed this first of his signs at Cana in Galilee; in this way he revealed his glory, and the disciples believed in him.

¹² After this Jesus went down to Capernaum with his mother, brothers and sisters, and disciples. They stayed there a few days.

REFLECTION “Invited”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison, using debts)

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 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

One: Brothers and sisters, who we are and yet becoming as individuals shows God's presence in the world.
That divine presence is reflected even more fully, powerfully, and transformatively as we unite in Beloved Community.
Let us bring ourselves, our gifts, and our resources together that God may be glorified.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Doyle Turner

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

One: O God, we commit to use all our gifts
–wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing,
working of miracles, prophecy, discernment,
tongues, administration, hospitality,
and finances–
in the service of acting as co-workers
with you and each other
for peace and justice to flow like a mighty stream.

PARTING WORDS

One: Let us go forth to celebrate and strengthen
our inescapable network of mutuality,
and become *the radiant hope* needed in the world.
As we go forth in this mutuality,
may we experience our God rejoicing over us and with us.
Let us go forth confident that
unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. Amen!

*Phrases from the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. have been woven into the prayer texts. They are identified by italics. Texts of King's work are available in **A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.**, edited by James M. Washington; © 1986 Coretta Scott King. A brief essay on King's understanding of the term "Beloved Community" is available at <http://www.wilpf.org/mlksbelovedcommunity>.*

POSTLUDE

Mike Kerrigan

In our Thoughts and Prayers this week . . . Please hold the following members and friends in your thoughts and prayers as we worship this morning and throughout the week: Drew, Kathy, Shaleen, Alison, Lorraine.

Creating the Beloved Community: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, New York City.



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