

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church

*An Order of Worship for Sunday, January 16
Second Sunday After Epiphany*



“We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is not the time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Worship for Sunday, January 16, 2022
Second Sunday After Epiphany
Live Streaming Worship 10AM

Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

(This service uses many of Dr King's words. They are in italics)

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Kathy Fanella

Our Mother-Father God
has made us to be One Body with many members.
United and uniting. This is our calling.

God calls us to share our diverse gifts
activated by the one and same Spirit .
United and uniting. This is our redemption.

God longs for us to be united in love
and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.
United and uniting. This is our worship.

**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.***

Opening Prayer:

Kathy Fanella

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.
*We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality
and tied to a single garment of destiny.*
You call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love.
Let us know your presence among us now:

Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.
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.
We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr.,
and in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

Let us pray: 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*.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

A Time of Silence

[Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession—confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God’s beloved child.]

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

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.”

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. Amen*

Music

There is a Balm in Gilead

A Time for Children

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

A Prayer for Illumination

Kathy Fanella

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of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr.,
and in Jesus' name. Amen.

Morning Lessons

Psalm 36:5-10 (from The Message)

Kathy Fanella

God's love is meteoric,
his loyalty astronomic,
His purpose titanic,
his verdicts oceanic.
Yet in his largeness
nothing gets lost;
Not a human, not a mouse,
slips through the cracks.
How exquisite your love, O God!
How eager we are to run under your wings,
To eat our fill at the banquet you spread
as you fill our tankards with Eden spring water.
You're a fountain of cascading light,
and you open our eyes to light.
Keep on loving your friends;
do your work in welcoming hearts.

What I want to talk about now is the various ways God's Spirit gets worked into our lives. This is complex and often misunderstood, but I want you to be informed and knowledgeable. Remember how you were when you didn't know God, led from one phony god to another, never knowing what you were doing, just doing it because everybody else did it? It's different in this life. God wants us to use our intelligence, to seek to understand as well as we can. For instance, by using your heads, you know perfectly well that the Spirit of God would never prompt anyone to say "Jesus be damned!" Nor would anyone be inclined to say "Jesus is Master!" without the insight of the Holy Spirit.

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:

wise counsel

clear understanding

simple trust

healing the sick

miraculous acts

proclamation

distinguishing between spirits

tongues

interpretation of tongues.

All these gifts have a common origin but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God.

He decides who gets what, and when.

Morning Reflection

Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Blessing

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!

Postlude

REV. ELIZABETH LYMAN – TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

BETTE KAHLER – DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

GEORGE MACERO – CELLIST

KATHY FANELLA – LITURGIST

THANKS TO TOM TAYLOR

FOR LIVE STREAMING THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

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



Announcements

There will be no in-person worship for the rest of the Sundays in January. Reverend Lyman and the Session made this decision as a precaution, because of increasing COVID numbers in our area. The worship service will be live streamed each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

The office will be closed Monday January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Session will be held via Zoom Tuesday, January 18th at 6pm.

Winter Closings:

If there is a delayed opening in Jamesville Dewitt schools, the office will also have a delayed opening.

If Sunday Worship is cancelled due to a weather event, an all church email will go out by 8am Sunday and will be posted on the website.

Our Christian Educator Jill Carter is set up with an email address. Jill can be reached at CEphpc@gmail.com.

From the Witness to Racial Reconciliation Team

We are well into our study of American History through the lens of race. Our next topic is Reconstruction: probably one of the most important periods in our history and one that is least understood. We will spend 3 weeks on the subject starting on Wednesday, Jan. 26th. Please feel free to join us whenever you can. Not only will you learn lots of interesting things about our history, but you will also have plenty of opportunities to discuss your thoughts and ideas with others in the class.

Whether or not you will be joining us, please check out the following videos for some basic understanding of the period.

Why study Reconstruction? <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/video/why-study-reconstruction> (2:49)

Reconstruction: A moment in the Sun: <https://www.pbs.org/video/tennessee-civil-war-150-reconstruction-moment-sun/> (57:14)

If you have PBS Passport (available to anyone who has made a contribution to PBS), you can check out a fabulous series they did on Reconstruction here. There are links to all the episodes on this page: <https://www.pbs.org/video/reconstruction-part-1-hour-1-n0g1em/>

Zoom info will be available next week.



Samaritan Center Serving
Saturday January 29th

Our next opportunity to love and serve our neighbors at the Samaritan Center is Saturday January 29th. We will be serving the meal from 12:30 to 3:00 PM (give or take a few minutes).

The Covid break allowed the Samaritan Center staff to survey the weekend volunteer groups and find out what works and what doesn't.

Pebble Hill will no longer be cooking the meal. We will cover the cost of the meal and the Samaritan Center staff will cook.

We need 5-7 volunteers to help serve the meal. If you would like to serve our brothers and sisters in need please e-mail Tim Frazee at tdfrazee@icloud.com or call/text at 315-373-8169.



Prayer Requests

Martin Luther King Jr's prayer for the church

Lord...

We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you.

Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity.

Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace.

Help us to walk together,

pray together,

sing together,

and live together

until that day when all God's children

- Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow -

will rejoice in one common band of humanity

in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray.

Amen.

- The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

We pray for Barbara Duttweiler who is improving at home.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for Terry and Lynda Wheat. Terry is home and on hospice.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for strength for Bette Kahler. We rejoice that her current treatments end next week.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask for prayers for Maureen Macero's sister, Laura, who continues with serious health issues.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We lift up prayers for those still battling Covid and all its variations. We continue to lift up those assisting in getting people vaccinated. We lift up those parts of the world where vaccines are not yet available.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for teachers as they navigate these uncertain times and for all students.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones this year. We pray that they find comfort in dark times.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who are experiencing health difficulties in our church and beyond.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all of our members and friends in assisted living facilities.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who have been victims of natural and man-made disasters throughout the world. Help us to reach out to the hungry, the homeless and all those in need.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray the people of Lebanon and Syria, for the people of Haiti and all those in distress around the world.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We lift up our brothers and sisters at New Jerusalem Food Pantry and the Eastern Farm Workers Association. Help us to be generous in our giving of food and funds to these two organizations.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to racism and all other forms of prejudice. Help us to see the prejudice in ourselves. We pray for those fighting to keep our voting rights intact.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those places the world in deep violence. We pray for all the young children trying to cross our border alone because of violence in their home countries.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Be with those facing hard economic times, with no relief in sight. For those entrapped because of systemic racism. For the work of food banks and other angels of hope.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church. Be with the Session as they meet this upcoming week. Continue to guide the Spiritual Discernment Council.

Be with Bette Kahler, Pastor Elizabeth, Session and Deacons, and all those who are keeping the mission and ministry going.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.