



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

January 17, 2021

***I Still Have a Dream: Worship for Martin Luther King Jr. Day***

9:55 am



Welcome to worship! While we can't be together physically, we are glad to join together for worship online. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**PRELUDE (9:50 am)**

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Barry Shelley

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

Leader: We remember how you spoke into the darkness and created light.

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

Leader: We remember the ways you have delivered your people through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time, right up until this present moment.

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

Leader: You have comforted us through the middle passage, racism, segregation, stripped identities and unjust laws.

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

Leader: God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically loved.

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible. We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN**

*(scroll down to music)*

'Lift Every Voice and Sing'

No. 631

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(in unison)*

O God, we as broken creatures have fallen short of all that has been required of us. Whereas you looked at your beloved creation and said "it is good", we have at times looked at that same creation and rejected its beauty and inherent goodness. We have looked at the color of one another's skin and assigned beauty and worth based on its hue. We have felt the texture of one another's hair and determined what is good and what is damaged. We have examined one another's frame and labeled it as human or "other". We have fallen short of being family and each other's keeper but,

***Deep in my heart, I do believe that we shall overcome some day.***

We have ignored the cries of others as they seek justice from the oppressor and we told them to wait a little while longer. We have hidden the wounds of the ghettos of our society in an attempt to showcase society's beauty to the world. We have not fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, or shelter to the stranger because of how they looked or the inconvenience of their need, but

***Deep in my heart, I do believe the truth shall make us free some day.***

But today is a new day full of opportunities to try again. What was left undone yesterday can be completed today. We can turn from the sins of neglect and dishonesty, and prayerfully move towards reconciliation and mutual respect. The realization that "we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly", forces me to be concerned about what happens to my neighbor. And so,

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

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Today we proclaim "to the people of the United States of America and the nations of the world, that we are not about to turn around.

**We are on the move now.**

Yes, we are on the move and no wave of racism can stop us.

**We are on the move now.**

The burning of our churches will not deter us. The bombing of our homes will not dissuade us.

**We are on the move now.**

Like an idea whose time has come, not even the marching of mighty armies can halt us.

**We are on the move now."**

And we are on the move because The Spirit of the Lord God is upon us... to preach good tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

**We are on the move and we thank you God for going with us.**

## **HYMN**

*(scroll down to music)*

'Roll Down, Justice!'

by Mark A. Miller

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **1 Samuel 3:1-20**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said,

“Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Then the Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

## **SERMON**

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

## **MUSICAL SOLO**

‘There Is a Balm in Gilead’

Traditional African American Spiritual

Alisa Cassola & Sylvia Berry

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Our Father (Creator), 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

### **CALL FOR OFFERINGS**

Beloved children of God, too often we see the world through a lens of scarcity. We look at all the things we do not have or wish for something bigger and better. And yet, our stories of faith tell us that the smallest things often become enormous when placed in God’s hands. And so, you are invited to bring your “little” and watch how God can do great things to bless the entire community.

[www.brocktonucc.org/donate/](http://www.brocktonucc.org/donate/)

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, we have acknowledged our weaknesses and our failed attempts at creating a just world for all, even with the best of intentions. We are ever cognizant of our limitations but continue to dream the impossible because of our faith in your power. And so, we dedicate our lives to changing the “normalcy” that continues to plague our communities and society.

**The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that recognizes the dignity and worth of all of God's children. The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that allows judgment to run down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream. The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy of brotherhood [and sisterhood], the normalcy of true peace, the normalcy of justice.**

## HYMN

Halle-Halle-Halleluja 41

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Halle-Halle-Halleluja'. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff has a melody with lyrics 'Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja.' and chords G, D, G, C, Am, D. The second staff has a melody with lyrics 'Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.' and chords G, B7, Em, Am, D7, G, C, G, D.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

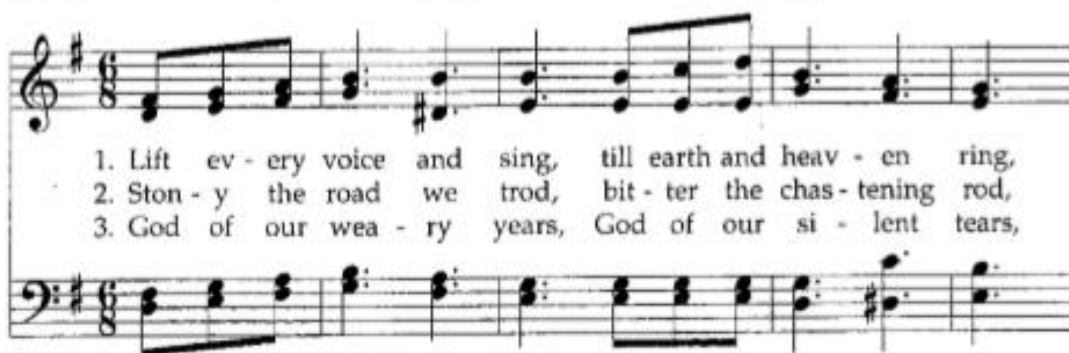
### Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor  
Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor  
Murray Kidd, Music Director  
Sylvia Berry, Accompanist  
Alisa Cassola, Soloist  
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Rev. Potter, Trayce. "Martin Luther King Weekend Service - January 18, 2021 - Year B." *United Church of Christ*, 20 Dec. 2020, [www.ucc.org/worship-way/martin-luther-king-weekend-service-january-18-2021-year-b/](http://www.ucc.org/worship-way/martin-luther-king-weekend-service-january-18-2021-year-b/).

Rev., Abi. *Prayers of the People: January 15, 2012*, 15 Jan. 2012, [re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/prayers-of-people-january-15-2012.html](http://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/prayers-of-people-january-15-2012.html).

## Lift Every Voice and Sing



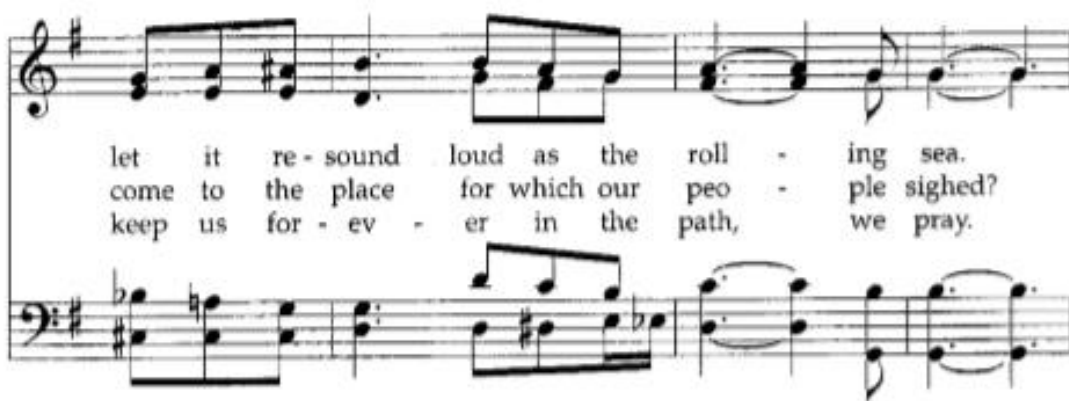
1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring,  
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod,  
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;  
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies,  
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921  
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

LIFT EVERY VOICE  
 Irr.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 we have come, tread - ing our path thru the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

# Roll Down, Justice!

3  
1. There's a voice, strong and

clear, ring-ing out far and near, \_\_\_\_\_

"Let jus-tice roll down, let jus-tice roll

down!" Like the rush of a stream,

comes a pow-er-ful dream, \_\_\_\_\_ let jus-tice roll

down, jus-tice rolls down!

2. Let the earth be re-stored, ev-'ry soul be re-  
3. On this glo-ri-ous day, give us cou-age, we

formed; \_\_\_\_\_ let the heal-ing re - new,  
pray, \_\_\_\_\_ that\_ jus - tice rolls down,

cre - a - tion re - born. Here in this sa - cred  
let jus-tice roll down! Let the vi-sion take

space with the strength of God's grace, \_\_\_\_\_  
flight and\_ God will de - light \_\_\_\_\_

let jus-tice roll down, jus - tice rolls  
as wa-ters flow down, jus - tice a -

down! \_\_\_\_\_ Roll \_\_\_\_\_  
bounds! \_\_\_\_\_

down! Roll down, jus - tice! \_\_\_\_\_

From: *Roll Down, Justice!* (CGBK72).  
Text: Mark A. Miller.  
Music: *Roll Down, Justice!* by Mark A. Miller.  
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Roll, \_\_\_\_\_ like an ev - er flow - ing stream.

Roll \_\_\_\_\_ down!

Roll down, jus - tice! \_\_\_\_\_ Roll \_\_\_\_\_ like an

ev - er flow - ing stream, \_\_\_\_\_ flow - ing

stream, \_\_\_\_\_ roll down! \_\_\_\_\_