

Martin Luther King, Jr., as Prophet and as Preacher

We are glad you are among us today.

To honor and be present to this sacred space and time,
please silence your cell phones.

***“Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that.
Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it.
Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.” Martin Luther King, Jr.***

Morning Songs

***Hymn #1030 We Are Marching**

***Hymn #1007 There’s a River Flowin’ in My Soul**

The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

Prelude Go Down, Moses African American Spiritual

Call to Worship The history is complex *Eric M. Cherry*

Welcome and Greeting

Chalice Lighting Remembering the Light *Anonymous*

Covenant:

Love is the heart of this church. We commit to:

Being a diverse, welcoming community of mutual care and respect;

Supporting each other's spiritual journey and search for truth and meaning;

Promoting justice and serving the wider community.

We hold ourselves to this promise with compassion and understanding.

***Hymn #156 Oh, Freedom**

A Time for All Ages MLK’s Childhood

Song of Blessing

1. Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the light of love surround you

everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Opportunity for Generosity:

Music **Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen** **African American**
Spiritual

Offering response:

We are grateful for these gifts we have received,
that sustain us and affirm the ministries of our church community.

Candles of Joys, Sorrows and Milestones

Prayer or Meditation *Lilia Cuervo*

Responsive Reading *The Ultimate Measure of a Human Being*

Words by Martin Luther King, Jr. adapted by **Lilia Cuervo**

Hymn #199 **Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

Sermon **Martin Luther King, Jr. as Prophet and as Preacher**

Hymn #149 **Lift Every Voice and Sing**

***Community Closing and Benediction** *Lilia Cuervo*

Postlude **Let Freedom Span Both East and West** **African**
American **Spiritual**

*You are invited to rise as you are able.

Responsive Reading *The Ultimate Measure of a Human Being*

Words by Martin Luther King, Jr. adapted by Lilia Cuervo

The ultimate measure of a human being is not
where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience,

but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Our hope for creative living lies in our ability to reestablish the spiritual ends of our lives in personal character and social justice.

As we press on for justice, let us be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using love as our chief weapon.

The church must move out into the arena of social action. First, you must see that the church removes the yoke of segregation from its own body.

It must seek to keep channels of communication open between the races.

A religion that professes concern for the souls of people and is not equally concerned about the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that strangle them,

is a spiritually moribund religion.

You may have the gift of scientific prediction and understand the behavior of molecules, you may break into the storehouse of Nature and bring forth many insights, you may ascend to the heights of academic achievement,

but without love, all of these mean absolutely nothing.

We have guided missiles and misguided humans.

One day we will learn that the heart can never be totally right if the head is totally wrong. Only through the bringing of head and heart—intelligence and goodness—shall humans rise to a fulfillment of their true nature.

The holy is with us not only in the noontime of fulfillment, but also in the midnight of despair.

Love is the most durable power in the world.