

St. Stephen's

United Methodist Church

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION SERVICE

JANUARY 17, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

The following is the link to St. Stephen's Youtube channel and this service:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0xij-ku-vi3om-vLE2dUJA>

WELCOME

Pastor Forrest

OPENING SONG

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Rob

One: Truth: We are all made in your image.

All: **Truth: You are God; we are not.
You are God; money is not.**

One: You are God; jails, bombs and bullets are not.

All: **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Nimel Theodore

Dearest Jesus, come and sit with us today. Show us the lies that are still embedded in the soul of America's consciousness. Unmask the untruths we have made our best friends. For they seek our destruction. And we are being destroyed, Lord. Reveal the ways the lies have distorted and destroyed our relationships. They break your shalom. . . daily. Jesus, give us courage to embrace the truth about ourselves and you and our world. And Jesus, give us faith to believe: redemption of people, relationships, communities and whole nations is possible! Give us faith enough to renounce the lies and tear down the walls that separate us with our hands, with our feet, and with our votes! Amen.

OPENING SONG

Amazing Grace
CCLI Song # 4755360

Sonja Tussing, vocals and
Jerry Kohns, keyboard

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

INTRODUCTION OF BISHOP SHARMA LEWIS

Pastor Jiyeon

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 NRSV

MESSAGE

Walking By Faith

Bishop Sharma Lewis
Bishop of the Virginia Conference
of The United Methodist Church**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Pastor Rob

CLOSING SONGNo Outsiders
CCLI# 7101035

Source Band

You are a refuge, You have no borders.
When I was a stranger, knocking at your door,
You took me in.
With no questions and no conditions,
when I was a sinner running from Your grace,
You called me friend.

There are no outsiders to Your love.
We are all welcome; there's grace enough.
When I have wandered, Lord,
Your cross is the open door.
There are no outsiders.
I'm not an outsider (to Your love).

You are the harbour in every tempest.
When my soul was shipwrecked, tossed upon the waves,
You calmed the storm; You are the Father.
There are no orphans;
Every tribe and nation, gathered in Your arms,
Sings with one voice, sing with one voice.

There are no outsiders to Your love.
We are all welcome; there's grace enough.
When I have wandered, Lord,
Your cross is the open door.
There are no outsiders.
I'm not an outsider (to Your love).

Bridge

I was tired, I was poor, I was thrown upon Your shores.
I was homeless and afraid 'til I heard You call my name;
and now I'm ransomed, I'm restored,
resurrected, I am Yours. I am loved. Yes, I belong;
Oh, my soul has found its home,
There are no outsiders to Your love.
We are all welcome; there's grace enough.
When I have wandered, Lord,
Your cross is the open door.
There are no outsiders.
I'm not an outsider (to Your love).
No, there are no outsiders.
No, I'm not an outsider to Your love.

BENEDICTION PRAYER *by Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Pastor Jiyeon

O Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love thy will. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE TIME OF DISCUSSION ON ZOOM

Pastor Forrest