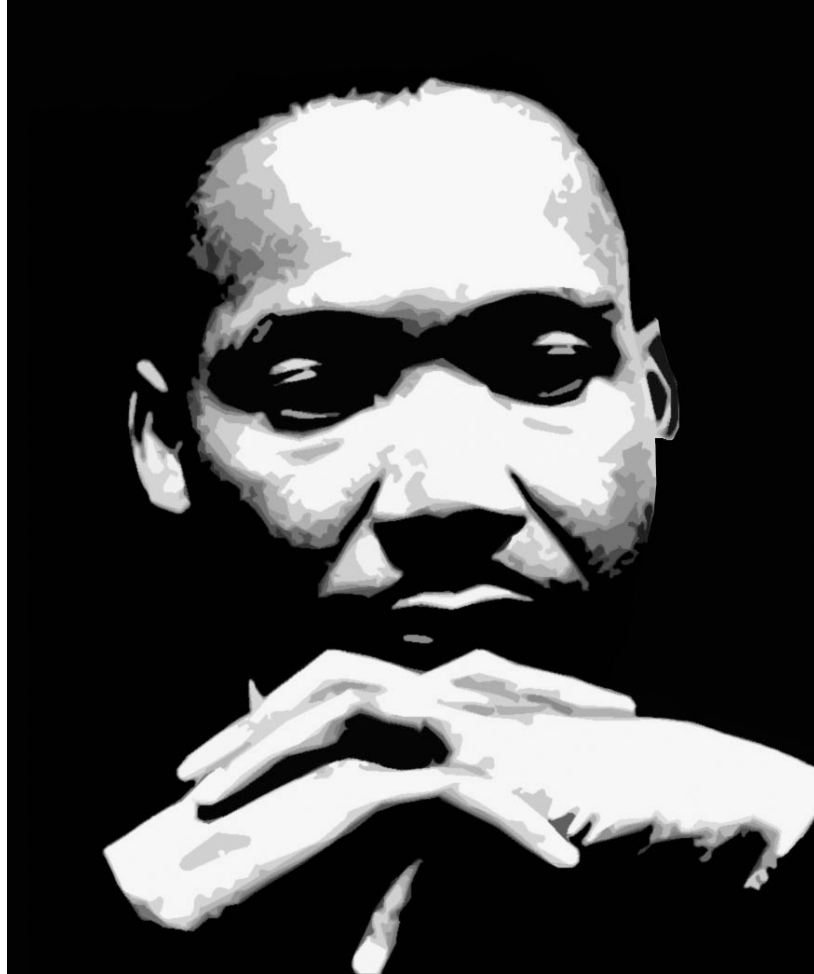


ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Praise, Worship, and Thanksgiving An Order of Worship for Evening

January 17, 2022

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector

7809 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 215.635.4185

ST PAUL'S ELKINS PARK

An Inclusive Multicultural Episcopal Church

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector
The Rev. Simpson Coriolan, Priest Associate
David Antony Lofton, Music Director

Welcome to St. Paul's Elkins Park!

***We are on a mission to know Christ;
to make Christ known in our community;
and to follow His Way of compassion and service to others.***

Sunday Service

10:00 AM ZOOM Family Communion
Contemporary worship with ancient depth, with all kinds of music.

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a multi-cultural community of faith
with members from all over the world.*

*We welcome all at the Holy Table in our church,
without exception, wherever you are in your spiritual journey.*

Praise, Worship, and Thanksgiving

An Order of Worship for Evening

(p. 109 and 142 in the Book of Common Prayer ["BCP"])

Dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



This worship service is an intentional blending of ancient Christian Liturgy with Black Church Testimony, Music, and Improvisational Worship.

If the Bishop is present, he or she should give the opening statement and the blessing, or optionally, could read all of Presider 1.

Introit

Ain't Gonna Study War No More (Traditional African American)
Sung by Carolyn Bolger Payne

Reminds us of Dr. King's absolute dedication to non-violence and his approval of Mahatma Gandhi's methods used to force the British to give independence to India – and also reminds us of Dr. King's later anti-poverty work at the Riverside Church in New York City

Opening Statement

Presider 1

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Testimony by Shango-Jamal Lewis

Opening Hymn Jesus the Light of the World.

Sung by the Ensemble

This old hymn was written by Samuel Wesley, brother of John, the founder of Methodism, with a chorus and tune by George D. Elderkin, about which little else is known. Taking quantity and quality into consideration, Samuel Wesley was the greatest hymn-writer of all ages. This hymn was well established and very popular from Dr. King's youth - and is still popular in more contemporary versions. It sets the theme of our service of the Light of Christ as the Light of Creation coming into the world as the Word, and overcoming all darkness.

The Word of God

Reader 1

A reading from Matthew

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the good you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Hymn

How I Made it Over

by Clara Ward of the famous Ward Singers

Sung by Carolyn Bolger Payne

A whimsical song about a soul astounded to find herself having made it over the River Jordan to heaven. One of Dr. King's favorites, it was sung at the March on Washington by Mahalia Jackson just minutes before Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech.

Reader 2

A reading from Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader 3

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. (Psalm 139:10-11)

The Prayers

Hymn

O Lord Please Hear my Prayer

Sung by Joilet Harris

Traditional African American – a lead into the prayer portion of the service.

Presider 2

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider 1

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of loving-kindness which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider 2

Eternal God, who led your ancient people into freedom by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we who walk in the light of your presence may rejoice in the liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider 1

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lord Christ, make your servant Martin Luther King Jr. a light to this world for every generation: Grant that we who follow in the footsteps may be made worthy to enter with him into that heavenly country where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Testimony by Shango-Jamal Lewis

Offertory Anthem

If I Can Help Somebody

Sung by Shango-Jamal Lewis

Dr. King often used this song by Alma Bazel Androzzo from Arizona to demonstrate servant ministry. Androzzo had no formal musical education but was introduced to the piano at the age of five by her father Carl Frederick Bazel, who was a truck driver. Androzzo was brought up in Philadelphia where she graduated from high school.

The Phos Hilaron

During this prayer which is the oldest surviving Christian sung hymn, the candles at the Altar are lighted, as are all other candles and lamps as may be convenient.

Presider 1

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by joyful voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

WELCOME & BRIEF HOMILY & PRAYER

Presider 1 - A Prayer For the Oppressed (BCP p. 826)

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Precious Lord

Sung by Carolyn Bolger Payne

Dr. King's favorite hymn, it was sung often at his rallies, and at his request, at his funeral by Mahalia Jackson. Written by Thomas A. Dorsey, the "Father of Gospel Music" of whom it was said he combined the good news of gospel with the bad news of the blues. Dorsey spawned a movement that popularized gospel blues throughout black churches in the United States, which in turn influenced all of American music and society at large. Dorsey wrote "Precious Lord" in his grief at the death of his beloved wife and infant son in childbirth.

Reader 4

Almighty, everlasting God, let our prayer in your sight be as incense, the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. Give us grace to behold you, present in your Word and Sacraments, and to recognize you in the lives of those around us. Stir up in us the flame of that love which burned in the hearts of your Son and of Dr. King as they bore their passion, and let it burn in us to eternal life and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Presider 1

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

The Blessing

And may the Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace.

Final Hymn
Siyahamba “We are marching”
Sung by The Ensemble

This great South African hymn made famous in American churches in the 1990s reminds us of the recent death of another great worker in God's Vineyard, Bishop Desmond Tutu. And it makes a wonderful conclusion of this service of the Light of God opened to us by Dr. King.

Presider 2

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People Thanks be to God.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Elkins Park

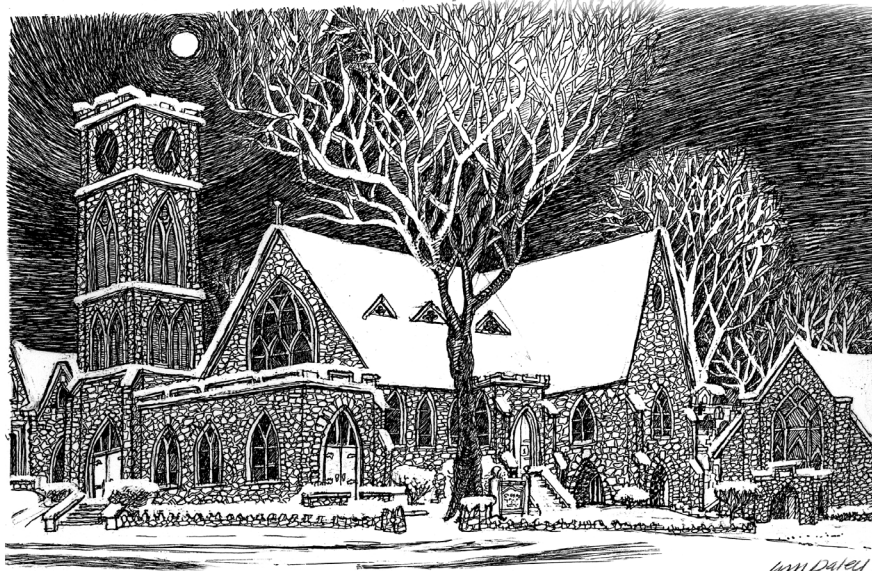
The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector

The Rev. Simpson Coriolan, Priest Associate

David Antony Lofton, Music Director

Tessika McClendon, soprano

Shango-Jamal Lewis, baritone



Tonight's Musicians

Joilet Harris, soprano

Carolyn Bolger Payne, contralto

Shango-Jamal Lewis, baritone

Theodore Thomas, Jr., piano

Christopher Burton, keyboard

Howard Burton, percussion

Drawing by William Daley

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