

Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2020

"NOT RACIST"

the white moderate myth

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Chapel

Concordia College

Monday, January 20, 2020

9:00 a.m.

✝ *Congregation stands as they are able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

✝ GREETING

P: God created all the races and nations of the world
and willed that we live together in peace and harmony.

**C: Come down from the mountain top, O God,
and show your presence among all people.**

P: There is strife in the human family; injustice abounds as racism, classism,
sexism, cultural imperialism and other isms. We are a divided people.

C: Come down from the mountain top, O God, and impart your justice.

P: We must work passionately to bridge the gulf between us,
overcome the injustices that oppress us, and restore community among us.

C: Come down from the mountain top, O God, and share your peace.

P: What is broken can be repaired, what is ruptured can be reconciled.

**C: Inspire us to be your agents of change, working for justice and mercy
and bringing healing to a world that needs it. Amen.**

✚ OPENING HYMN Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is
Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.
vic - t'ry is ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931

Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949

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✝ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, you create us and love us;
you make us to live together in community. We thank you for Martin Luther King, Jr.
and all your children who have been filled with your vision for our lives and who
have worked to bring your vision into reality.

**C: Guide us to live by your vision, working to build the beloved community where
everyone is welcomed, all are valued, power is shared, privilege is no more,
and all your children know wholeness and well-being. Amen.**

(please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Ezekiel Saw de Wheel" -- arr. Moses Hogan
The Concordia Choir
René Clausen, conductor

FIRST READING *Micah 6:6-8, from "The Inclusive Bible"*

"What shall I bring when I come before Yahweh, and bow down before God on high?"
you ask. "Am I to come before God with burnt offerings? With year-old calves?
Will Yahweh be placated by thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil?
Should I offer my firstborn for my wrongdoings—the fruit of my body for the sin of my
soul?" Listen here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what "good" is,
and what Yahweh needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk
with your God.

R: Word of God, word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING *Matthew 22:34-40, NRSV translation*

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered
together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him,

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

R: Word of God, word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

REFLECTION Excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

RESPONSE Excerpt from the "Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent"

PRAYERS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

✝ CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who is present, who gives life,
who calls us to be agents of truth, justice, and hope.

C: Amen.

P: O God, on this day we confess that the sin of racial hatred and prejudice
distorts your divine plan for our human lives: You created us in divine likeness,
diverse and beautiful: In every person, every race is your image.

C: But too often we fail to recognize your image in all: Forgive us.

P: You created us in divine freedom, to be free:

In every decision, every choice is your possibility of justice.

C: But too often we fail to choose to advocate for your justice for all: Forgive us.

P: You created us for divine abundance, to tend and share:

In every garden, every social structure is your seed of community.

**C: But too often we fail to create that community which includes all,
and gives to all equal access to your abundant life: Forgive us.**

Open our eyes to distinguish good from evil.

Open our hearts to desire good over evil.

Strengthen our wills to choose good over evil,

so that we may create among us your beloved community.

P: Hear the good news: God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ forgives us and sets us free to
live full human lives in community. We may go forth confident of the grace to see
with new eyes beyond racial prejudice; to imagine with renewed fervor justice and
mercy for all, and to create with a new will a community where all are given access
to God's abundant life.


C: Thanks be to God!

✝ BENEDICTION "A Prayer for the Church" from The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

✚ SENDING SONG Lift Every Voice and Sing



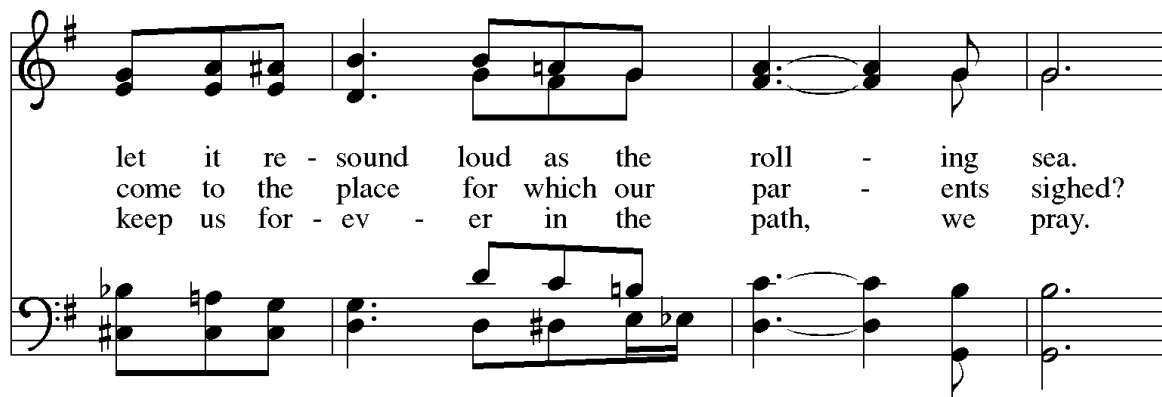
1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



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 - t'ning 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 par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

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 through 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.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

✝ SENDING

P: "It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win.
We must love each other and support each other.

C: We have nothing to lose but our chains."

--Assata Shakur

P: Go in peace. Let freedom ring, and justice flow like water.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Campus Ministry at Concordia College
is a partner in the
Reconciling in Christ community.

Rooted in a belief that God welcomes all with
extravagant love, the Office of Ministry and
the Campus Ministry Commission of Concordia
College strive to follow God's call to shameless,
loving welcome. These bodies of the Evangeli-
cal Lutheran Church in America affirm full par-
ticipation for persons of a plurality of gender
identities and expressions, sexual orientations,
faith orientations, abilities, races, and cultures;
we believe all persons are created by God in the
image of God and are meant to live in relation-
ship with one another. Inspired by Christ, we
commit to accompany all who are vulnerable by
working against fear and shame for dignity and
wholeness.



Reconciling
in Christ



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