



*Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
Looking for the Light, Listening for the Call
January 17, 2021*

Prelude

Praise Him! Praise Him!, Martha Main

We are Called to Worship - In the shadows of the night, God calls us. Here I am, for you called me. In the daylight, God calls us. Here I am, for you called me. God calls to each of us by name. Here I am, for you called me.~

Gathering Prayer - Creating God, how deeply you know us. In the mystery of your love, you see who we are and who we might become. Our bodies are your creation; they are wonderfully made. Our minds reflect your handiwork. Our spirits are a gift from you. You call us by name and invite us to follow. Lead us now into the depths of your love. Amen.~

Song 1

We Are Standing on Holy Ground, YouTube

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer: *You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A Reading from the Psalms

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (NRSV)

mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

We Hear God's Word

1 Samuel 3:1-20 (NRSV)

³ 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.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ 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. ⁴ Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.' ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

10 Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’ ¹¹Then 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. ¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.’

15 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. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ He said, ‘Here I am.’ ¹⁷Eli 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.’ ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, ‘It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.’

19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Song 2

Here I Am, YouTube

Meditation

Here We Are

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation - 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.+

January Benevolence Offering – God’s Bounty Food Pantry

In 2021 we will have a Benevolence Offering focus each month. You are invited to make a special contribution to these different ministries. We hope to share our love far and wide as we use our resources to support these ministries. This month we are supporting God’s Bounty, a joint ministry of the Franklin Township Ministerial Association. This ministry supports our

neighbors facing food insecurity, and through this pandemic the pantry has done essential work in helping feed local families. If you'd like to make a contribution to God's Bounty, please clearly indicate that on your offering envelope or check, or make sure to leave a note/message when you make your PayPal donation.

You can mail your offerings to our office. We check the mail regularly.
Zion United Church of Christ
8916 E. Troy Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Or, you can donate through our website through our secure PayPal button at www.zionuccindy.net/donate. Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments.

We Give Thanks – God, you are the source of all goodness and life. We bring our offering to you this day, knowing that all we have comes from you. We hear your call and we answer, bringing all that we have and all that we are. Use our gifts, our talents, and our bodies for your work of peace and justice. Amen.~

Song 3

Take My Life and Let It Be, YouTube

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing - As the Rev. King stated, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Go forth this day to look for the light and listen for the call. Go forth this day to love and serve. Amen.

Postlude

Holy, Holy, Holy, Martha Main, YouTube