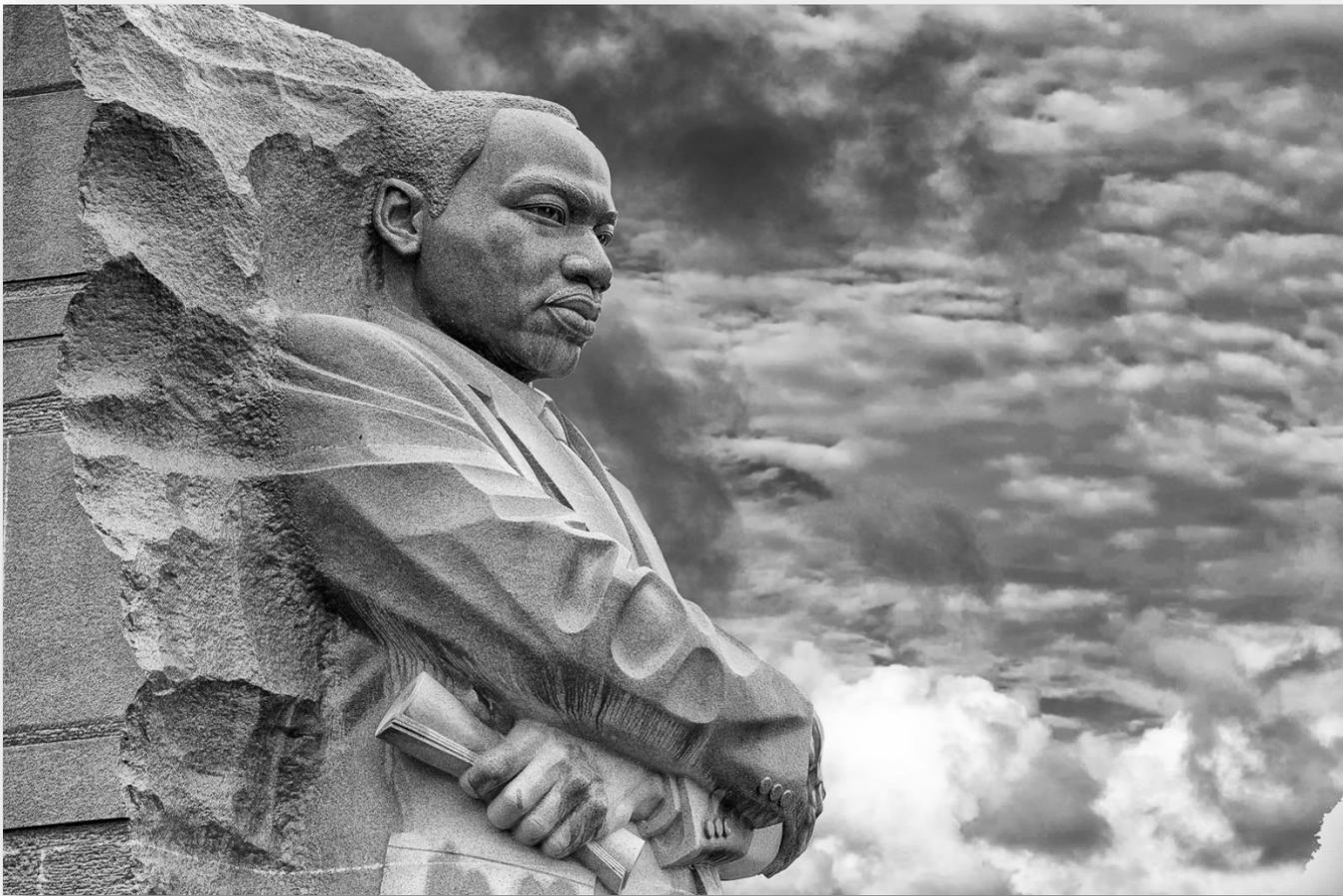


DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“...till earth and heaven ring,



ring with the harmonies of liberty”

-James Weldon Johnson, 1900

Celebration of Worship

Sunday, January 17, 2021,

[Click Here to Listen](#)

Prelude

Meditation on MLK

Words of Welcome

Rev. Deb Swift

Chime

Introit

Love Is Little

Shaker Song

*“Love is little, love is low,
Love will make our spirit grow.
Grow in peace, grow in light,
Love will do the thing that’s right.”*
Ben Magruder, soloist

Arr. Kevin Siegfried

Call to Worship

Eileen Smith

Adapted from material found on <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2224/worship-elements-january-17-2021>

One: God, you call each of us to serve you, and we answer,

Many: “Here I am!”

One: Jesus, you call each of us to follow you, and we answer,

Many: “Here I am!”

One: Holy Spirit, you call each of us to worship you this day,
and we answer,

Many: “Here I am!”

Hymn 69

I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)

HERE I AM

(Music for all of the hymns may be found at the end of this bulletin.)

Centering Prayer (unison)

Adapted from material found on <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2224/worship-elements-january-17-2021>

Loving God,
you know us better than we know ourselves.
Our prayers are in your heart
even before they are on our lips.
And yet we must utter our prayers.
We must proclaim our praise of you
and all your wondrous creation.
Your love surrounds us
and you have promised to be with us always.
You know our hearts' desire to serve you.
We pray that you will keep us true to that desire.
And so we live out our prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading

I Samuel 3:1-10
from the *New International Version*

Eileen Smith

Music for Reflection

Wade in the Water
Alan Jones, soloist

Negro Spiritual
Arr. Moses Hogan

Meditation

"If not us. . . who?"

Rev. Swift

Hymn 691

Lord, When I Came Into this Life
(Music at the end of this bulletin)

LAND OF REST

Confession of Faith (unison)

Rev. Swift

The new life [in Christ] takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems.

Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. (9.22-24)

Music for Reflection

Precious Lord
Juli Elliot, soloist

Thomas A. Dorsey
Arr. Nathan Carter

*"Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light;
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand;
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home"*
Text: Rev. Thomas A. Dorsey

Prayers of Healing and Transformation

Rev. Swift

Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit 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 Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing
(Music at the end of this bulletin)

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Benediction

Rev. Swift

Choral Response

Amen

Justin Wallace

Thank you to . . .

Participants: Rev. Deb Swift, Eileen Smith
Jason Cloen, and Alan Jones

Choir: Caitlin Glastonbury, Juli Elliot, Brenda Tremblay, Emmalouise St. Amand,
Mark Darling, Ben Magruder, Gavin Tremblay, Alan Jones,
Lee Wright, conductor

Sound Engineers: Donald Fairman, David McDowell, Ben Magruder (Choral Music)
Website integration: Mark Anderson

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Session has scheduled the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for
Sunday, January 17, 2021 at noon.

The agenda for the meeting is:

1. Amend the Manual of Administrative Operations (By-laws) to make provision for holding electronic (virtual) meetings by inserting a new paragraph after section #12 that reads:

13. The congregation may meet by electronic means if all members have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss and vote on business items.

2. Acting on the report from the Church Nominating Committee.

69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

G *Leader or All* Am D G C G D

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

Lord, When I Came into This Life 691

The musical score is written in 6/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines, with the first line of each system corresponding to a line of lyrics. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a shape-note quality. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

1 Lord, when I came in - to this life you
2 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
3 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
4 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; to - day I come, com -
mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
tween my faith and doubt, let your great Spir - it
let my life be true: feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Written for the confirmation of the author's son, this text of self-dedication also voices our recurring individual need to recommit ourselves in less formal ways. The familiar shape note tune enhances a sense of finding our place among God's people from all times and places.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1976

MUSIC: American folk melody; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

Text © 1979 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 545)

339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

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
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

The Downtown Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Pat Youngdahl,
Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn Kelly,
Associate Pastor

Jackie Griffin, Nursery Coordinator

Mark Anderson, Director of Operations

Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor

Ed Verna, Maintenance

Moses Nhial, Maintenance

Robert Clement, Maintenance

Dr. Lee S. Wright,

Director of Music Ministry

Jason Cloen, Associate Musician

Alan Jones, Associate Musician

Penny Crudup, Church Secretary

David Mear, Business Manager

Teresa Ward, Bookkeeper

& Receptionist Coordinator

Keisha Betts, Receptionist

Theresa Reddick, Receptionist

Parish Leaders

John DeHority, Clerk of Session

Joan Mackey and Carol Snook, Co-Moderators of Deacons

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